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Luther League Review

The Official Organ of the
Luther League of America



LUTHER PREACHING IN THE CHAPEL OF THE WARTBURG

THE BADGE OF ROYALTY

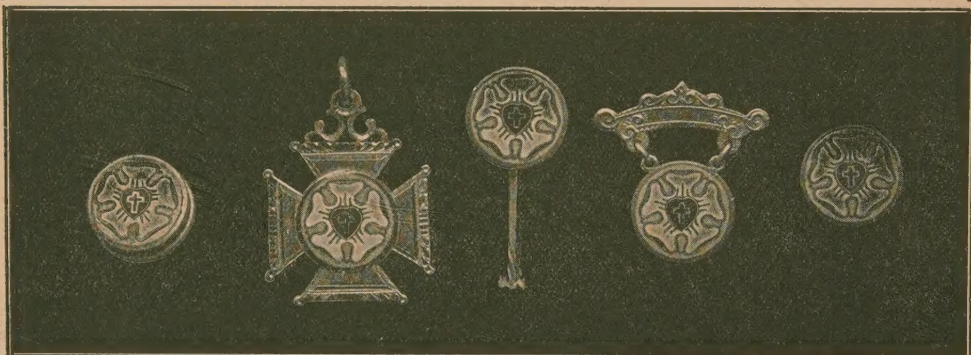
Men are proud to wear badges that identify them with kings.

To have a "decoration" bestowed by a monarch is to hold a great prize.

But kings get their power through inheritance—how much more honorable is it to *win* power by strength of character.

Martin Luther was born a peasant, but he has exerted greater power than any king the world has ever seen.

Wear his badge and read the secret of his power in the description he wrote of that emblem.



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Luther League Review

Luther League of Pennsylvania

Twenty-first Convention at Lancaster, September 19-21

BY JANE M. TRUXAL

THE twenty-first annual convention of the Luther League of the State of Pennsylvania was held in Grace Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pa., September 19, 20 and 21, 1914.

The convention was called to order by the

Lancaster. Mr. Vernon J. Myers extended hearty greetings from the Mayor and the Councils of the city of Lancaster. Mr. F. P. D. Miller brought greetings from Lancaster County and gave some interesting facts concerning Lancaster County's re-



DELEGATES TO THE PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION.

president, Mr. P. Walter Banker, on Saturday afternoon, September 19.

Devotional services were conducted by Rev. Peter N. Wohlson. After the reading of the lesson the Luther League Rally Hymn was heartily sung by the convention.

Dr. C. Elvin Haupt, pastor of Grace Church, gave us a most kindly and royal greeting and welcome to Grace Church. Mr. John H. Fry extended to the convention greetings from the District League of

sources, history, etc. President Banker responded to these addresses of welcome in a few well chosen words.

The minutes of the last three sessions of the twentieth annual convention of the Pennsylvania Luther League held at Hazleton, Pa., were approved.

President's Report

In opening the Twenty-first Annual Convention we do so in full appreciation of the opportunities which have been given us by the Master to extend His kingdom here, and the part which our convention is to

have in furthering work in that kingdom. May our deliberations strengthen and stimulate within us new desire to put all our energy and strength into personal work and personal prayer, to consistently pray "Thy Will Be Done." At this present day and time when the Church of Christ finds herself defending those who are supposed to represent Christianity and the spirit of Christ on the other side of the world, it seems that all we can do is to pray that the Great Head of the Church may create within those who have seemingly fallen away from that spirit represented in Christ that they may turn from their present conflict and bring peace to those lands.

In consideration of the topics, let each of us endeavor to receive all that we can from them. The committee has labored well to get us good topics and good speakers. It remains for us by discussion and attention to make that program a success. It is our earnest prayer that each of us shall receive something from the convention, something that shall lend us encouragement for the year to come and something that will create within us a new desire to do our little in carrying on the work of the Church. We are likely to pray in spirit "Thy Will Be Done," but in the flesh "Our Will Be Done." Let each of us endeavor to see in our work, whether it be blessing or discouragement, the Will of God.

The work of the organization during the past year has, as was true of the year which preceded it, not been as aggressive as your president would have it, and what was done in the nature of the endeavor to better its finances and organize its forces has not born the fruit which we had expected it would. The work is handicapped principally because of the lack of finances. This has been true for several years and for some reasons or other efforts to better the finances have not born fruit. The per capita system seems to meet with favor and does produce some results, but not to the extent that it ought to.

Dues from some districts, as will be noted from the report of the treasurer, have not been paid; whether this be due to the inability of these organizations to raise their dues or to a lack of knowledge of the system I do not know, but whatever the cause, it cannot continue if we are to exist as an organization. It is practically impossible to do anything in the way of organizing or in the way of sending out any information, because we are handicapped by accumulated debts from the previous year, and to date we have not been able to pay these debts in sufficient time to have funds necessary to care for the current year's expenses. We had contemplated this year sending out what we wanted to call the Luther League Bulletin. This bulletin was to carry with it the information necessary for the Locals from all the officers of the organization. We hoped, by this method, to combine under one head all reports, but as our debt to the printer was already quite large we did not feel we could consistently add anything to it. This method would, I believe, furnish to the organizations what is essentially needed for the carrying on of the League business. What opportunity we have had to visit the organizations has proven that in most instances the Local organizations are not posted with all the information they ought to have concerning the larger organizations. They seem to feel that they do not have any organic connection with the larger organizations, and as a consequence do not feel their responsibility to them. It may be that herein lies the trouble in the collection of dues. What is true of the State is also true of the National organization, and we will probably have this trouble and will continue to have it so long as the present method is followed out. It is our intention at this convention to consider some method by which our debts may be wiped out, and the new officers, whoever they may be, may start out with sufficient funds to carry on the work of the organization as it ought to be. While there has been no extravagance, simply because there could not be, it may be possible for us to carry on the work in a more economical way. Some suggestions might be made here that will assist your officers in the practice of such economy, although the present administration fails to see where such economy could be practiced. Each year there has been some appropriation toward the extension work of the Church, and to this end we organized the work of the extension committee with the idea of doing the best work possible with the least cost, but according to the reports of Mr. Weidner we find that there is a lack of proper co-opera-

tion with him in the securing of information necessary. Without going further into the reasons for the conditions which we find, it seems that the thing necessary is information for the pastor and for the president of the Local organization and for the officers of the District organizations and this information should come to them at regular intervals and should contain for them answers to all of the questions which are likely to be asked concerning the League work, and this can only be done with the means necessary to carry on the work. We have thought at times that the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW might furnish the opportunity for the various State organizations to talk to their members through its pages, but some of our people believe that it would be better if this work were done through the medium of a paper of our own. In order to bring the matter before the convention, further along in our report we offer a recommendation. It is not our purpose to speak in the spirit of pessimism, but there is some criticism of the organization by those in the organization as well as out of it, and in view of the fact I am taking the privilege, as your officer, of calling attention to this condition, and I trust that these suggestions will be received in the spirit in which they are offered, and that we will not only resolve to do, but at this convention to do the things necessary to put the League in the condition that it ought to be. There may be a probability that the president may be, in a measure, personally responsible for some of the conditions, but the finance handicap has been a considerable one. Further, we have undertaken more this year than last year than we had the time to do or our health permitted and for this reason we have not been able to attend to our portion of the work as consistently and as well as we ought to. We have been considerably disappointed during this year at our inability to give the time which the work demanded, but because of considerable local work it has been practically impossible to give the time demanded by the work.

By the direction of the last convention the constitution was printed and sent out by the chairman of that committee to those who are entitled to receive the same. There are several copies here which may be obtained by those who desire them, and in as much as this committee has finished this work, we suggest that they be discharged with a vote of thanks at this convention.

In accordance with the instructions of the last convention, the statistician has supplied the secretary of the Executive Committee with the mailing list for the use of all officers. Many communications and letters were sent out during the year, something over three hundred being sent out, also a number of circulars by the president.

A number of visitations were made during the year to several Local and District organizations. We had invitations from other organizations and we appreciated the opportunity to be with them, but on account of the pressure of the Local work we were compelled, in several instances, at the last minute to telegraph our regrets. It is always a real pleasure to have the opportunity to meet and greet on their own field the members of the various Local organizations. We regret our inability to accept a number of invitations tendered.

The chairman of the Extension Committee, who has acted in that capacity for several years and who has always been an active Luther Leaguer—I refer to Mr. H. W. Weidner—has removed to another State, and as a consequence has resigned from his office in the State organization. Mr. Weidner has been a very faithful and efficient worker for a number years in the organization, and the State will miss him. We suggest that the convention recognize his faithful service by appropriate action.

Before closing our report we desire to extend our thanks and our appreciation of the courtesy which we have received from individuals, officers and pastors connected with the organization. This courtesy is one of the things that makes the League work a real pleasure. We have, at all times, received from all those connected with the organization in an official way all the help and time which they had opportunity to give, and it is to these that any credit must go for whatever success has been achieved in the League's work. It has been in past years and is thus a real pleasure to bear record of the efficient service and the self-sacrifice that these officers and assistants have been willing to make. The thanks of the organization is due each one of these workers.

The following recommendations are offered:

1. That the Luther League of Pennsylvania publish a four-page paper, to be known as the State League Bulletin, in which all the information necessary be sent out to the Local organizations by the officers of the State League. That a copy be mailed to the pastors and presidents of the Local Leagues.

2. That we renew our application to the National League asking that the REVIEW and the Topics be published in one publication.

Respectfully submitted,

P. WALTER BANKER,

President of Luther League of Pennsylvania.

September 19, 1914.

The president's report was read. A motion was made and carried to the effect that the president's report and all subsequent reports, with the exception of the treasurer's report, be received and referred to the resolutions committee, and that the treasurer's report be referred to the auditing committee. The president's report was referred to the resolutions committee.

Mr. Harry Hodges presented the report of the executive committee.

Report of Executive Committee

The regular annual meeting of your committee was held at Harrisburg on February 23d and the usual routine business was transacted; also some plans were made for the annual convention. During the year the business of the committee was transacted by correspondence and conferences of sub-committees.

Attention must again be called to the financial situation. The report of the treasurer shows a large deficit, caused almost entirely by the failure of some of the District Leagues to pay their apportionment of dues. Your committee has instructed the treasurer to pay, as far as possible, the amounts due to outside parties in order that the credit of the League may be maintained; hence, most of the deficits consist of moneys due to officers and members of committees. Some of these amounts extend back as far as March, 1913, and should be met. The committee, therefore, most earnestly requests the delegates to urge their District and Local officers to remit as soon as possible such sums as may still be due the State League. The committee decided to ask the same per capita rate as last year; namely, three cents. While this will cover the current expenses for the year, it will not cover the deficit. The committee, furthermore, has endeavored to keep down the expenses without impairing the efficiency of the League, but if our standard is to be maintained we must have the funds.

At the last convention the League accepted the invitation of the Greensburg District League to hold the next convention within the bounds of that District, the place offered being Latrobe. Your committee endeavored to arrange for this convention, but were unsuccessful. Under the authority given by the constitution, we were compelled to find another location and the invitation to Lancaster was gratefully accepted.

Your committee is glad to report that, aside from its finances, the League is in good condition and that progress has been made.

Respectfully submitted,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

CHAS. W. FUHR, chairman;

K. J. F. WILHARM, secretary.

The report was referred to the resolutions committee.

The report of the treasurer was presented by Mr. M. Haller Frye, treasurer. He asked that all co-operate in having the deficit shown by the report made up, and that district treasurers make an effort to have local treasurers forward dues at once. He urged that district treasurers forward money to the State treasurer immediately upon its receipt. He also asked that a

stated sum, \$25, be voted to the treasurer by the convention to use at his discretion in collecting dues. The net deficit shown by the treasurer's statement was \$80.72. The report was referred to the auditing committee.

Mr. Francis C. Leupold, the statistician, whose report was already in the hands of the convention, made a few remarks in explanation of his report.

Mr. Weidner, chairman of the extension committee, wrote a letter to the convention, which was read, stating that he had used the money voted in gathering the material concerning the attitude of pastors and people over the State toward the Luther League work.

The president of the Luther League of America, Mr. W. C. Stoever, Litt. D., being present in the convention, was asked to speak to the Luther Leaguers assembled. He responded in a brief address, giving words of encouragement and kindly greeting.

Mr. Stoever then told the convention of the death of Mrs. Lillian Weaver Cassaday, the author of the Luther League Rally Hymn, and asked that when we again sing this hymn we think of her and of her great work for the League. A motion was then made that the resolutions committee be instructed to take suitable action on her death, and also on the death of Mr. James McC. Frank, late of McKees Rocks, Pa.

The first address of the convention on the theme, "God's Will—Its Design For All People," was then delivered by Rev. M. L. Zweig, of Reading, Pa., and was most comprehensive and inspiring. He said:

God's Will—Its Design For All

The only test of a sound piety is doing the Will of God. This secures to us the privileges and blessings of the Gospel and finally crowns with immortal glory.

What is the will of God? The person who trusts in a mere theoretical knowledge of religion no doubt supposes that he is doing that will. The formalist who goes through his regular routine of worship fancies that he meets the approbation of God. The enthusiast, with his heated imagination and disordered mind, looks upon himself as a child of heaven, while the moralist claims heaven on the ground that he merits it by his good works. But to determine what God's will is we must go to the sacred records, examine the requirements of God and then compare the life and conduct with it. "This is the will of God, even your sanctification."

True, God's will is done even by wicked men. This suggests that there are two ways of doing that will, a right way and a wrong way.

The right way requires that it be done voluntarily. There is a loyalty of necessity, such as exists in the material creation. The loyalty of choice distinguishes the moral from the material. We must learn instinctively to choose the right and only the right; our freedom must take on a spirit of necessity; our wills be merged in the divine will.

It must be done consciously, in full knowledge of the fact that we are doing it. We must "present" ourselves to God as living, conscious sacrifices, holy and acceptable to Him.

It must be done totally. The spirit may be willing, but the flesh is weak, so that we often have the ex-

perience of Paul, who, when he would do good, found evil thrusting itself in his way. God's will requires that every human being offer his entire self, body, soul and spirit, to His service.

It must be done constantly, not only when God directs us in paths that are pleasant and agreeable, but also when He directs us to go the way we do not want to go, to do the thing that is unpleasant or that will cause pain or require sacrifice, or mean a loss.

It must be done unitedly and harmoniously. God's will is not only that each of His children be in unity with Himself, but all in unity with each other, because all are in unity with Him.

And so God's will must be done universally, its design is for all people. "God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us: that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations." When all classes and countries and climes and colors thus know Him practically, experimentally, savingly, wars will cease and all the varied sinks of iniquity be cleansed throughout the world.

Announcements were then made by the president and by the pastor loci and a motion was made to adjourn. The hymn, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," was sung, after which the convention was dismissed with the Lord's Prayer and benediction.

The second session of the convention opened Saturday evening at 7:45 in Grace Church. Vesper services were conducted by Rev. Wohlson. After the singing of the hymn, "Thou Whose Almighty Word," the address of the evening was delivered by Rev. Henry W. A. Hanson, of Harrisburg, Pa., on the theme "God's Will—Its Accomplishments Upon Earth," in which he showed the wonderful good that has been done in heathen lands, and gave an encouraging view of what His will has accomplished in Christian lands.

At the close of this address a beautiful soprano solo was rendered by one of the members of the choir.

After announcements made by the presiding minister, the closing vesper services were had, Luther's Battle Hymn was sung by the congregation, and the session closed with the Lord's Prayer and the benediction.

At the close of this session the delegates and friends were invited to the social rooms of the church, where a delightful reception was held. Refreshments were served and an informal program rendered, and a general good time enjoyed by all.

On Sunday morning the visiting Leaguers were present in Sunday school at Grace Church. After the usual opening service the school was addressed by various visiting delegates, among them, Rev. Mr. Gebbert, Mr. C. W. Herman Hess, Mr. Miller, Mr. Francis Leupold and Mr. George.

The third session of the convention was the chief service of the day—Sunday—at 10:45 a. m., the services being conducted by Pastor Haupt. The hymn, "O Enter, Lord, Thy Temple," was sung as a processional, after which the morning service was used.

After the reading of the epistle lesson a beautiful baritone solo was sung by a member of the Grace Church.

The convention sermon was then delivered by Rev. J. J. Schindel, of Allentown, on the theme "God's Will—Its Fulfilment by the Luther League." His text was taken from the sixth chapter of Matthew, the thirty-third verse, and was the following: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." It was a powerful sermon. He said:

God's Will—Its Fulfilment by the Luther League

Matthew 6:33—"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

We have an evidence of healthy life already in the theme of this convention, and especially in the theme which the League has selected for this service—God's Will, Its Fulfilment by the Luther League. The very fact that the Luther League is asking the question, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" shows that it is living, living in Christ Jesus. It seems to us that we have the answer to the question of the Luther League in the Gospel for this Sunday. The answer is in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, in the words which were the text of the great Sermon on the Mount: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Do you realize that you have in the words of our text the first and foremost commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ. And it is a commandment which does not destroy the law and the prophets, but fulfills, fills them full of life and meaning. It is nothing else than the command to loves the Lord our God with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength. The kingdom of God is where God is king and God is king where His will is done. That was what Jesus made the motive of His life. His meat was to do the will of God and to finish His work; and whoever does the will of God is His brother and sister and mother.

What does this demand of the Luther League?

1. It demands breadth of view. Where is a greater concept to be found than that of the kingdom filling the earth and leavening the whole world, embracing all peoples and all nations!

May we not say that we desire that others interpret our name "Lutheran" in terms of the kingdom. We cherish the name only by reason of what Luther in the Providence of God was permitted to do for the kingdom. Luther himself says ("A faithful exhortation to All Christians, that they refrain from insurrection and rebellion," 1522): "I pray that my name be not used, and that men call themselves not Lutherans, but Christians. What is Luther? The teaching is not mine. Nor have I been crucified for any one. St. Paul (I Corinthians 1) would not allow the Christians to call themselves Pauline or Petrine, but Christian. How then could I, poor foul body that I am, the food of worms, come to have the children of Christ called after my worthless name? Not so, my dear friend, let us blot out the names of parties and call ourselves Christians after Him whose teaching we hold. The papists rightly have a party name, because they are not content with the teaching and with the name of Christ, but want to be papists as well. Let them be papists then, since the pope is their master. I am no man's master, nor do I want to be. I hold with the Church to the one common teaching of Christ, Who alone is our Master. Matt. xxiii."

That does not mean dropping the name of our Church which was thrust upon us by our enemies, but it means interpreting it as Luther himself would have it interpreted, in terms of the kingdom. That is the breadth of view demanded of you for the fulfilment of God's will. Let it mean, "Nothing less than the Kingdom." But with this breadth of view must go

2. Definiteness of Purpose. The man our Church

needs to fear is not the man with breadth of view, but the man without definiteness of purpose. Strange to say, the men with greatest breadth of view have usually been the men of most clearly defined purpose. There can be no greater objective than the kingdom of God and there can be no better defined purpose than to do the will of God.

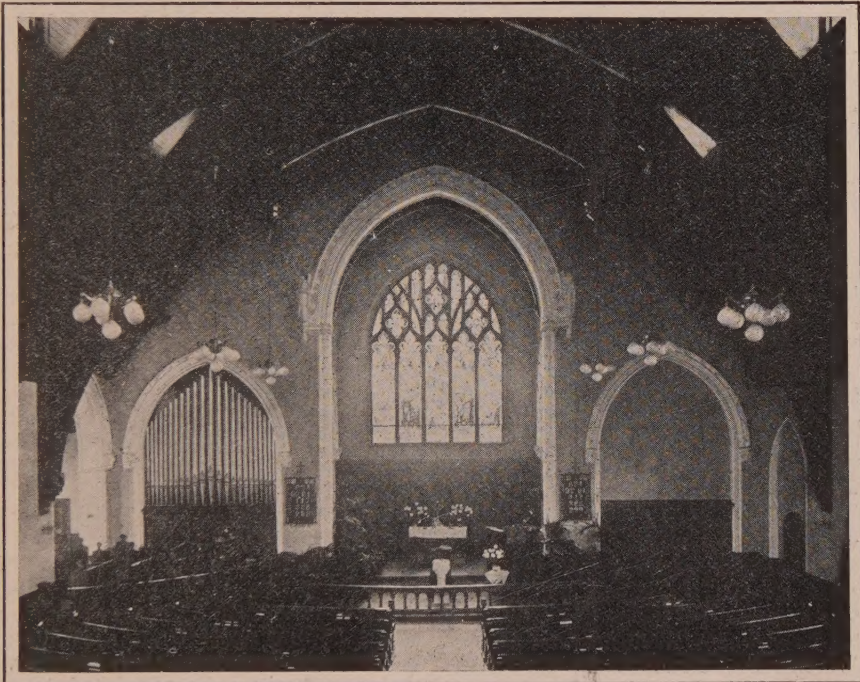
Luther League of Pennsylvania, the kingdom of God is to comprehend all the relationships and activities of life, the nation, the city, the workshop, the home, the place of recreation as well as the place of worship, so that whether men eat or drink or whatever they do they will do all to the glory of God, but the Church must be true to her special work in establishing the kingdom on earth, she must preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. Only by being faithful in this work will she succeed in energizing society for other work of the kingdom. Luther League of Pennsylvania, learn your limitations and see to it that your Church does well that which the Church alone can do and in which she has no competition; see to it that she preaches the Gospel. You are well enough

ment, how her equipment can be made to surpass that of others, but let us *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto us.*

The fourth session of the convention was held on Sunday afternoon and was a rally service for all Luther Leagues of the city and county of Lancaster. Rev. I. Chantry Hoffman, of Philadelphia, Pa., delivered a most masterly address on the subject "God's Will Concerning the Youth."

God's Will Concerning Youth

There are three fundamental principles which we as Leaguers should have ever in mind and show in our relations with one another and those with whom we come into contact in the congregation and the community in which we live and labor. If we profess and practice these principles we will be doing the



INTERIOR OF GRACE CHURCH, LANCASTER.

acquainted with the fifth, sixth and seventh chapters of Matthew's Gospel to know how very modern are the subjects discussed there: uncharitableness, divorce, the oath, giving, prayer, fasting, covetousness, anxious care. In these matters it behooves us to be just as narrow as our Lord Jesus Christ was. The Bible which these men read today is unfortunately only the "living epistles," the lives of Christians; and often they are such as not to be able to stand the light of criticism. That is the criticism which is most to be feared, because we are not at all optimistic concerning its results. The world has a right to judge us by our fruits. It has a right to judge the Luther League by its fruits.

Shall we not then as earnest and sincere Lutherans fight for the growth and the pre-eminence of our own Church? Certainly! Because we believe that she stands for the Gospel and for the righteousness of the kingdom. If we did not believe this we would have no right to support her. But if we really believe this, then it is not necessary that we take any thought for her life, how many members she can secure in the coming year, nor for her rai-

will of God as the youth of the Church. God has been pleased to show us His will in the Book, especially in the attitude of Jesus Christ, in regard to the children and the younger portion of the congregation. Luther had a sensitive understanding of this when he gave to the Church his catechisms, large and small. The Lutheran Church has ever been mindful of the will of God and the teachings of the fathers in regard to the youth of the Church.

If we would do the will of God as young people, we must have I—A conviction as to creed.

Unquestionably the need of the day is conviction as to belief. We confess the ecumenical creeds of Christendom. We have the Augsburg Confession. In our meetings we continue what was begun in our catechetical instruction. There is a responsibility upon the Church to ground its youth in the faith. Here we learn the will of God. The history of the Church is largely the story of the men and women of conviction as to creed. If we as Americans find it necessary to fix the fundamentals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in the minds and hearts of the children, shall we as citizens of

the kingdom of God be less careful to train them in the truth so that they may stand and, having done all, continue to stand.

II—*A conscience as to consecration.* We must live what we believe. We must practice what we preach. Our conduct must agree with our creed. The roll of the confessors of the faith is too long to call at this time and place, but it is inspiring to know that so many were ever ready to live and, if need be, to die for their faith. The long train of martyrs who followed the Christ is a witness to the conscientious consecration of a company of men and women and youth of which the world was not worthy. As Leaguers, let us follow with them, and no matter what the cost let us do as our enlightened Christian conscience demands. It will lead us in the path of suffering and sorrowing and sacrificing Christ. If it is the way of devotion to Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us, let us follow on even through great tribulation to His throne.

III—*A constraint as to co-operation.* We are workers together with God. We do not stand alone. We are of the body of Christ. This is the will of God that we sink our personal differences and abandon our ambitions that He may be magnified. There can be little, if any, real congregational activity when self rules. Leaguers must so have the love of Christ in their hearts that in all that they do He may constrain by His love. If the youth of the Church would do His will they must learn of Him Who said, "Thy will be done." That this thought should be emphasized is painfully apparent in many Luther League organizations. How many have been disrupted because the members wanted their will to be done! Love of self has defeated the spirit of co-operation in many congregations to such an extent that pastors and church councils have advised the discontinuance of the League. Surely there is a desire on the part of Leaguers to yield to the gentle constraint of the love of the Son of God Who made Himself of no reputation and became man; yea, a servant and died even the death of the cross! What might we not learn as we apply this thought to the relations of the Leaguers not only to God but to the pastor and his fellow Leaguers and the members of the congregation! And in the sphere of Lutheran co-operation how strongly and strikingly this holds! If ever we Lutherans are to come together it will be when the love of Christ constrains us. When we have become convicted as to creed and exercise a conscience as to consecration and yield to the constraint of the love of Christ we will be one in Him Who prayed that His loved ones might be one.

The president then announced the names of the various committee and the session closed with the usual service.

The fifth session convened on Sunday evening. A processional hymn was sung, which was followed by the vesper services, conducted by Rev. Mr. Weibel. The hymn, "The Church's One Foundation," was then sung, after which Rev. Prof. Jacob A. Clutz, D. D., of Gettysburg, Pa., delivered an address on "The Value of the Luther League to the Church."

The Value of the Luther League to the Church

In his address Dr. Clutz spoke of three things in which he regarded the Luther League as of special value to the Church.

1. It tends to awaken a true Lutheran consciousness in our young people. He said that what he meant by the term was a sense of the greatness and worthiness and power and glory of the Lutheran Church, growing out of its vast numbers, its glorious history, its pure doctrines, its liberal policy and its tremendous possibilities and responsibilities for the future. Such a Lutheran consciousness he thought the Luther League calculated to awaken by its very name. He also spoke of the great need and value of such a Lutheran consciousness in our young people and in all our people for the best development of our Church life and the successful prosecution of the great tasks to which Providence is calling our Church in this land.

2. The Luther League tends to develop greater stability and loyalty in our Lutheran young people, and eventually in all our people. It is a kind of post-graduate school in which there is carried forward the work done in catechism classes. The instruction in the catechism tends to make stable Christians; the study of Lutheran history and doctrines and Church activities carried on in the Luther League tends to make stable and loyal Lutherans. Such loyalty will be a great gain to every local congregation, and also in all the general work of the Church. Too often our people are too easily drawn away from their mother Church, either into the other denominations or to the world, especially when they remove from a community in which our Church is strong and influential to one in which it may be comparatively weak and unknown. But it is hardly possible that a true Luther Leaguer could be guilty of such disloyalty and defection.

3. It tends to foster Lutheran fraternity and to promote Lutheran unity. In the study of the Topics from year to year they also become better acquainted with the founders and leaders, and the history and policies and work of other Lutheran general bodies, and this has the same tendency to develop mutual respect and confidence and to bring them closer together. The Luther League works to this end also by teaching our young people, and gradually all our people, to understand and realize that the Lutheran Church is greater than any single body of Lutherans, whatever its name or professions may be. It may never bring about actual organic union. This might not be desirable, but it will tend to encourage and to secure more mutual tolerance and respect, a oneness of spirit, a general Lutheran comity, and a readiness to co-operate in many common enterprises, and this certainly is desirable, and ought to be possible, between brethren of the same name and the same faith.

At the close of this address an anthem was sung by the choir of Grace Church, entitled "Peace I Leave With You."

The sixth session convened on Monday morning, September 21, at 9 o'clock. The business meeting was opened by Vice-President Harry Hodges. The first item was the reading of the minutes of the previous sessions. These minutes were duly approved as read.

Announcements were made by Mr. Hodges. Mr. Banker then took the chair. He announced that 1,000 copies of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW must be subscribed for by the convention in order to have a full report of the proceedings of this convention printed therein. A motion was made that a committee be appointed to receive these subscriptions, and that the convention subscribe for 1,000 copies of the REVIEW. After some discussion of the matter, on vote the motion was carried. The president then appointed as the committee Mr. Roy C. Beaver, Miss Ethel Yost and Miss Anna Bair.

The report of the auditing committee was presented by the chairman, and a motion was made that it be accepted and the committee discharged. The motion was carried.

The first topic on the program, "God's Will—Concerning the Juniors," was admirably presented by Miss Maude Trabert, of Lebanon, Pa. She said:

God's Will—Concerning the Juniors

The Junior Luther League is not primarily intended for the small children, but for those approaching the

age of confirmation. We can, therefore, readily see that a society should be formed for those children from the age of three to ten years to prepare them for the work of the Junior League. A child properly trained in this society can continue its work in the Junior League.

When we speak of God's will concerning the Junior League, we must first consider the teacher. We hear the words of the Master, "Go work in My vineyard." A call to labor among the children would, indeed, be a sweet work, for it is especially true that he that soweth here receiveth wages. This voice comes from God and it is meant for us. It is God's will, who has placed these children here, that we should make use of the talents given us and instruct them in the proper manner. But you say—"I have not the ability. I cannot talk to children." Have you ever tried? Moses, also, told the Lord that he was not eloquent, but the Lord showed him a way. Again you say, "I have not the time." Do you know that an hour spent in training the child is better than some useless gossip or un-

work she has accomplished in the world. They should also be taught to work for the Church.

It also offers opportunity for pleasure in the social functions which are necessary in every society to keep up the interest of some who are less attracted by the religious or educational meetings. Much good may arise from children meeting together under their leader and enjoying simple pleasures. But our social affairs must be dignified, elevating and instructive, and nothing must be done to make God ashamed of us. Talks should be given by the traveler, the merchant, the lawyer, the soldier, and others. These talks will give the child something to think about and cause him to yearn for more. Some actual Christian service outside of the meetings should be planned and carried out. It does not matter so much what the service is, just so that some loving service is really performed. One thing necessary in work of this kind is to give each boy and girl something definite to do.

In the smaller society the boys and girls can be taught together; now they should be separated, but



GRACE CHURCH, LANCASTER,
Where Pennsylvania Convention Was Held.

profitable work? Another objection is—it requires so much training. This should be no objection; make use of the ability you have. The Lord has given us all a talent. Have you put your talent to the exchangers? Remember, the unfaithful servant was condemned not for wasting or misappropriating his talent but for simply neglecting it.

It was not enough to bury it in the earth, even if it was wrapped in a napkin and safely kept.

Child study is becoming one of the most important departments in the whole plan of modern education, and it is well to consider those in whom God has placed the destiny of the nations and to recognize the place of the child in any great plan destined to develop and uplift man and woman. For the children of today are the society, the church, and the nation of tomorrow. The object of the League is to prepare them for usefulness in the church and to help them to be better Christians. They should be taught to attend church regularly and to read their Bibles daily. The importance of daily prayer should be kept constantly before their minds. They should be taught the history of the Church and the great

line of instruction should be the same. The boys should have exercises suitable for the boys, and the girls suitable for the girls. Interests that are attractive to a young girl are not so to a boy; while those congenial to a boy do not interest the girl. Joint sessions should be held from time to time with the Boys' and Girls' Junior Leagues; also, with the Senior League. This will teach the Juniors their relation to the Senior League. The parents and friends should be persuaded to attend these exercises, as nothing gives the Juniors more encouragement.

As soon as the child is confirmed it should be placed in the Senior League. Not only should he be told to go there, but he should be introduced to the League by the pastor, and it would be well to have them transferred from the Junior League to full membership of the Senior League by some order of exercises so that none shall be lost in passing from the one to the other.

The boy is said to have the greatest temptation, but the girl can as easily be led astray. She may associate with girls of questionable character who may easily influence her. On the contrary, if the

girl is properly trained, she may lead others to the Saviour.

The young man while in the Junior League may seem devoted enough, but now his environments are different; he may let go his hold upon the Church and religion. Too much care cannot be taken to keep him within the fold.

The Luther League's great mission should be the work of holding the interest of the newly confirmed; it should awaken a deeper interest in the heart of the new member in his Church.

The discussion of this subject was opened by Rev. Sieger, of Lancaster, and he was followed by others, among them Rev. A. T. Michler, of Lebanon, and Dr. Frantz, of Reading.

The hymn, "Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word," was then sung.

The second topic of the morning, "God's Will—Concerning Preparation for Christian Service," was presented in a paper prepared by Earl R. Diehl, which was read by Mrs. M. Haller Frey in Mr. Diehl's absence.

God's Will—Concerning Preparation for Christian Service

In our individual preparation for service, our work will branch out in three directions—study God; study self; study the world. By God is understood all higher agencies than human. Self is meant ego, myself alone in my threefold capacity—body, mind and soul. World means our sphere or human surroundings.

Before the time of Christ the people had Jehovah for their worship and devotions, and had the Law given on Sinai as their Bible. Later, the books of the Old Testament, one by one, were written. The people, to be faithful in their temple duties and vows, had the Old Testament standard for their light. Since their time the great Light, Jesus Christ, has come; the wonderful interpretations on the old Bible were given; the great victory over Satan and hell was accomplished; the returning of Christ into heaven; the coming of the Divine Spirit and the founding of the Christian Church; and last, the written New Testament, embodying the crown of the whole Christian religion. We, then, are living under God's new will in Christ Jesus. In preparing for Christian service, God's will is that we be thoroughly acquainted with His Word. The Bible must be the fountain of every Luther Leaguer's life. He must drink daily from it, must feel every word with his heart. It is a universal book, suits all people, can change the life of any and everybody. Let us then drink deep and often; it alone can keep us from passion and lust, for therein we find Christ.

The second point in preparing to serve is, Study self.

Each one of us is the chemist in his own laboratory, the carpenter in his own shop, the druggist in his own store, the musician in his own studio, the housekeeper in her own home, the engineer at his own machine. Each one of us receives influences uncountable; it is up to us to mix, to measure, to weigh, to create, to sweep, to control. Let us go to the "beginning of things" in our own lives and make a rock bottom research into our existence. The Christian life is not a sudden change from heathenism to sainthood, from badness to goodness; nor is the moment when the confirmation vow has been assumed a guarantee of an entirely changed person. The thrill may be there, the warmth of Christ's love, but that isn't the measure of our real character. Soon we meet the cold world and the flame dies out. Later, after the temptation, we feel that we have been no stronger than our weakest point. But through grades and steps of victory we become stronger, more Christlike. Each one of us is in our own stage of Christian experience. I may be weaker than you, you weaker than I. The Christian life is a ladder, a scale. Each one of us is occupying our own position in that scale, each one of us a tone, each one varying from the other as the blades of grass differ; and from this wonderful variety of beauty and character the great symphony of life is created.

The third point is, Study the world. Anything and everything in the world about us can be taken as lessons for our soul, if we are enlightened enough to see them. The world is exactly the way we look at it. The outside world of nature looks different to the naturalist than to the traveling tramp. The immigrant landing in New York looks different to the waiting missionaries than to the customs officer. We find so much criticism and misunderstandings in the human world about us. The workingman condemns the employer, and the boss the laborer. Our educational systems are condemned because they do not do spiritual teaching. The Church is being condemned because she does not stoop to world methods and is grossly misunderstood. Only prophets and dreamers are able to criticise and condemn, and that because they are filled with the Holy Spirit. We are admonished in Holy Writ to get the proper focus in our observations. The whole human race is not a chain composed of so many similar links; all the millions are different from one another in circumstances, communities, gifts and talents; yet we are all unified in the one common Christ. But, though Jesus died, the one common death, and arose with the one common victory for every human soul, yet the application of his redeeming blood is diverse in the case of every individual. Our differences must be appreciated and, in love, harmonize. Christ's love is the great constraining power in blending the gifts and varieties of every member of the Church. Human nature must be sacrificed on the altar of heavenly love. And oh, how contagious is that love! Just as a weak link makes a dangerous chain, so one soul may do much harm to those about him. We need to serve the world with our Christ. As some one has said, we should simply let our good deeds grow from us as the angels do, who never toil.

So, as we do our Christian service, in whatever way, whether by personal touch, speech, persuasion of words, sacrifice, silence (not idleness), teaching or leadership, let us remember that our neighbor is a star in his own orbit, and a sun in his own system. But back of all must be our preparation for service. As Edwin Markham has strikingly said:

"We men of earth have here the stuff
Of Paradise, we have enough!
We need no other thing to build
The stairs into the Unfulfilled—
No other ivory for the doors,
No other marble for the floors,
No other cedar for the beam
And dome of man's immortal dream.
Here, on the paths of every day—
Here, on the common human way—
Is all the busy gods would take
To build a heaven, to mold and make
New Edens. Ours the stuff sublime
To build Eternity in time!"

The president, Mr. Banker, then requested that all delegates from the State League to the national convention at Baltimore intending to attend that convention signify their intention so to do. It was found that at least one delegate must be elected to fill a vacancy in the list, and Rev. Mr. Reichert, of Lancaster, was duly nominated and elected such delegate.

The seventh session of the convention opened Monday afternoon, September 21. At the close of the devotional services the president took the chair for the business session. The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

The report of the committee on resolutions was presented by the chairman of that committee, Rev. Mr. Barr. A motion was made that the report be received and considered item by item. The motion was duly carried.

Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 were adopted as read. Item 5 concerning the publication of Junior League Topics was stricken out. Items 6, 7, 8 and 9 were adopted. Item 10, after being amended, was adopted. Items 11, 12 and 13 were adopted, and the resolution was then adopted as a whole and ordered spread upon the minutes. The following is the resolution as adopted:

We, your committee on resolutions, beg leave to submit the following report:

I. We are well pleased to note the large number present at this convention, which shows that the interest in the purposes of the League is not dying out, but rather increasing.

II. We renew our appreciation of the value of the Luther League Topics as a bond of unity and fellowship among us, and a great source of information and improvement of our young people.

III. We confess our admiration and gratitude for the magnificent display of literature, which shows the interest and appreciation taken by the Church at large in the work of improvement of our young people and their friends, and encourage the continuance of the same. The exhibit clearly shows that the charitable institutions of the Church are fully recognized and well sustained. It further shows that an ever increasing interest is being taken in our theological seminaries, colleges, deaconess institutions, academies and all other educational institutions for the higher development of our young people; also that the cause of missions, at home and abroad, is being well maintained among us, by which a large number of souls is being gathered for the Kingdom of God.

IV. In view of the fact that so many publications beneficial to our young people are not in the libraries of our Sunday schools, we recommend to our locals the establishment of libraries, including the Luther League Reading Courses.

V. WHEREAS, the Messenger of Death has come among us and called Mrs. Lillian Weaver Cassaday and James McClatchy Frank from their labors in the Church Militant to their reward in the Church Triumphant; and

WHEREAS, we deplore and deeply mourn our loss, but, bowing to Him who doeth all things well and is too wise to err and too good to be unkind; be it

Resolved, that their faithful labors, their intelligent and kind teachings and their Christian lives among us will ever be held in grateful remembrance.

Resolved, that as a tribute to their memories we rise and sing the Luther League Rally Hymn, which was composed by Mrs. Lillian Weaver Cassaday.

Resolved, that we deeply sympathize with the bereaved families, and that a copy of these resolutions be presented to them, and that the same be spread on our minutes.

VI.

TRIBUTE OF LOVE.

"Their works do follow them." Truly can this be said of one of our best League friends who has just passed into life eternal. Mrs. Lillian Weaver Cassaday's earthly work is finished, but the memory of her noble self-sacrificing life in the service of those around her will ever live in the hearts of all who knew her. Hers was a most beautiful life; yea, charming

in its tranquil nobility. She lived for others. Yes, dear Leaguers, our friend lived her inspiring Rally Hymn,

"Oh, Christians leagued together
To battle for the right."

We love to think of her deep loyalty to her Church and its young people; but she also looked beyond and heeded the call which came up from the needy who are yet without the fold of God. These, too, must be helped. Never shall I forget (if I may personally express myself) her earnest plea at the missionary gathering in Toledo, Ohio, when she spoke in behalf of the Italian children. Her whole heart was in that plea, as she spoke of the salvation of these little ones, and all who heard her were deeply impressed. She saw much good everywhere, and her influence was far-reaching. Many will call her blessed.

That we may all try to pattern our lives after her life of steadfast faith and love, and that we may not forget to ask God's richest blessing upon her noble Christian work in her home city, Philadelphia, is my sincere desire.

Your faithful League friend,

ANNA M. LANDIS.

VII. WHEREAS, the finances of the State League are in a deplorable condition, due, we believe to negligence and indifference on the part of district treasurers and the local society treasurers and members, be it

Resolved, that the State treasurer communicate the condition of the State treasury to each delinquent district treasurer and the treasurer of each delinquent local, calling to their attention the fact that without their support the work and success of the State League will be seriously handicapped.

VIII. WHEREAS, at the meeting of the district presidents and pastors with the State president, it was unanimously decided to recommend the "Per Capita Tax" system and the publication of a four-page paper to be known as the State League Bulletin, in which all the information necessary be sent out to the local organizations of the State League by the officers of the State League; be it

Resolved, (a) that the "Per Capita Tax" system be again used, and that it be the same as this year, namely, three cents.

(b) That the State League publish a four-page paper to be known as the Luther League Bulletin, in which all the information necessary be sent to the local organizations of the State League by the officers of the State League, thereby making each local feel that it is part of the State League, and also recognizing and properly discharging its duties and obligations.



REV. C. ELVIN HAUPT, D.D.,
Pastor of Grace Church.

(c) That each local society be asked for a voluntary contribution toward the elimination, once and for all, of the present indebtedness.

IX. We deplore the fact that some of our locals are discourteous to the extent of not giving the needed information to the extension committee of the State League when asked for.

X. WHEREAS, Hon. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, has been called upon to mourn the loss of his wife and companion; and

WHEREAS, there has been strife, culminating in war among the people of one of our border nations; and

WHEREAS, more recently the great nations of the East have arrayed themselves against each other in a tremendous, horrifying war, with a loss of thousands of human lives, robbing the nations of their choice manhood, entailing incomprehensible suffering, grief and want; therefore be it

Resolved, (a) that we, the Luther League of the State of Pennsylvania, in annual convention assembled, this 21st day of September A. D. 1914, in the city of Lancaster, Pa., do authorize the secretary to extend to the President of these United States our sincere sympathy in his recent sorrow caused by the decease of his beloved wife, and commend him to the care and comfort of our Heavenly Father and also to our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life.

(b) That we commend to the people of the United States the Christian character and many beautiful virtues exemplified in Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, deceased.

(c) That the policy pursued by the President of the United States, his advisers and co-workers in the Mexican affairs, whereby our country was prevented from being plunged into war with its awful consequences—the policy which was most patiently yet firmly directed toward the maintenance of peace and prosperity, we most heartily endorse and commend.

(d) That the President be encouraged to renew his efforts to secure peace among the warring nations; that he use the good offices and powerful moral force of the United States persistently (as may be consistent with discretion and prudence) to bring the belligerent nations to a state of peace and tranquillity.

(e) That we are in accord and sympathy with President Woodrow Wilson's Peace Proclamation and commend the same to the faithful observance of our people and local Leagues.

XI. WHEREAS, Mr. H. W. Weidner, the chairman of our extension committee, has removed within the bounds of another State, and therefore, can no longer work with us; be it

Resolved, that we express our appreciation of his indefatigable, unselfish and Christian efforts for the advancement of the interests of the State League of Pennsylvania, by rising to our feet and silently praying for God's blessing upon him in his new field of labor.

XII. WHEREAS, the publishing of the Topics separately entail an extra expense and an unhandiness; be it

Resolved, that we renew our application to the National League asking that the REVIEW and the Topics be published in one publication.

XIII. RESOLVED, that we fully appreciate the kindness and hospitality of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pa., and ask our president to return the thanks of the Luther League of Pennsylvania to the congregation, the pastor, the Luther League, the choir

and all others that helped to make our stay so pleasant, at the closing session this evening.

W. PENN BARR,
Chairman;
JOHN M. FRY,
C. ELVIN HAUPT,
ELMER E. BECKER,
M. HALLER FREY,
Committee.

The program was then resumed, and the first topic, "God's Will—Concerning Greater Efficiency in District Work," in the absence of Mr. W. H. Menges, was presented by Rev. Miller.

God's Will—Greater Efficiency in District Work

Greater efficiency is demanded everywhere in the business world, and employers are studying ways and means whereby greater efficiency may be reached and attained.

Railroad companies, manufacturies, and all kinds of agencies want men at their best. They want a sound mind in a sound body. They want men who can and who do think. This day and age of ours brain and brawn go together.

The reason for greater efficiency. It seems to me that God was at His best in creating the worlds, especially His crowning act, Man. Who of a truth can say? Who of a truth dare say, that here, or there, or elsewhere, God might have done more efficient, He might have wrought with greater efficiency. None can say this.

And so that there may be greater efficiency in district work, every official in the district and every member of the various committees, I remember, at our district Luther League convention of York, a place was given for delegates to tell of their successes and failures. A representative from one of the Leagues told of what a worker the president was, but ended by saying the League has had the success it has by hard work, and therein lies the success of any organization—hard work on the part of its president and members of committees. The district president then arose and said you can easily see why — is the banner society of the district.

If companies require hard work for greater efficiency, certainly we should not expect to do less in an organization which is of, by and for the greatest organization ever established on earth, the only organization that has divine appointment. Hard and careful work on the part of the officers of district and members of the various committees will produce greater efficiency in district work.

Greater efficiency can come only through the most arduous and faithful work. Last Sunday evening members of the Dallastown League visited our Local League. It was a great incentive to our League, as I trust it has been to theirs, at least, so they said.

I believe if visits would be thus exchanged between Leagues it would not only be the means of greater efficiency, but would tend to make a stronger district organization. A healthful rivalry would be brought about.

Let the district president have no fears regarding whether his efforts will tell. Best efforts always tell. Maybe not in the performer's lifetime, but what of that? They tell nevertheless. Let him have the faith in his committees. Jesus had in His disciples. He never doubted their ability for: did He not say, "Lo I am with you always?"

He had confidence in them, for said He: "Whatsoever works I do shall ye do also, and greater works shall ye do because I go unto the Father." That is enough.

Thus will God's will be manifest and greater efficiency be accomplished. Jesus sent His disciples, and they were not perfect men by any manner of means. But He trusted in them. They were successful. No failure.

The work is the Lord's. He will stand by His work. Every worker will be efficient, so far as he puts into practice the Master's principles. Jesus did not fear. Need we?

If prayer can remove mountains, he who with faith uses this wonderful weapon must be successful. We all know of the orphanage of George Mueller, which became self sustaining through prayer. Work and pray should be every Leaguer's motto, that God will thus bring about greater efficiency to God's blessed cause.

The convention then sang "Gracious Spirit, Love Divine," after which the topic, "God's Will—Concerning Liberality," was delivered by Rev. H. K. Lantz, of Shiremanstown, and was an inspiring address.

The Will of God Concerning Liberality

So deep are the roots of God's will concerning liberality imbedded in the Holy Scriptures that many believers never get at the essence of God's will, but merely skim over the surface and thoughtlessly quote one or two Scripture passages, as if the whole subject rested upon a few verses. Worse yet, perhaps when they quote such familiar passages as "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver," they may have never seen the words in their Bibles, but perchance the finances of the local congregation were in bad shape because of antiquated business methods, and perhaps the minister was forced to issue an appeal to the congregation to come to his rescue because the sexton's salary and his had not been met. At the top of his appeal he wrote the familiar passage, "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." To that extent many Christians know the will of God concerning liberality.

Oh, that men would become so intensely enthusiastic over God's will concerning liberality, as they wax warm when they defend the doctrine of sacramental grace. What great things, what world wide missionary campaigns would be launched and perpetuated in the kingdom of God, and for His great glory! Nothing so magnifies the Christian life and gives faith an outlet to show itself by good works than a thorough knowledge and a right understanding of our subject.

The will of God concerning liberality can be beautifully summarized in the precious words of our dear Lord and Redeemer—"Freely ye have received; freely give." I am of the opinion, and I do not believe that I am mistaken, when I assert that this comprehensive word of our Redeemer comprehends all that is written on our subject in the Word of God. In a most concise way this word of our dear Redeemer clearly sets forth the divine side and the human side of God's will concerning liberality.

Too long we have attempted to raise the standard of liberality in the Church without teaching that there is a divine side in the will of God concerning liberality.

Grace Church, in which this convention is held, is unusually rich in stained glass windows that enable us to see the divine side of God's liberality toward us. Let us look at some of them with reverence and give attention to the acts of the incarnate life as an exquisite commentary upon the divine side of God's liberality. On the right side, in the rear of the church, is Bethlehem. Round the manger-cradle only His mother and foster-father are standing with the shepherds and the cattle. Look at the Child lying therein, who is yet King of kings and Lord of lords! Where are the robes of majesty, His scepter and crown? Where the divine glory which He had with the Father before the world was? Where the legions of angels of the kingly palace where Jehovah dwells? All for the time laid aside. The King of heaven has come down from heaven, has emptied Himself of His glory—is made man. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"—"Freely ye have received." Generously and without grudging or necessity God gave us His unspeakable gift.

We pass on to the next window, which is the central light of all the windows in the life of Christ. The window on my left, portraying God's Gift paying the wages of sin. What does Calvary say to us, Calvary with its cross and Him that hangs thereon? What do we read in those eyes so full of anguish, yet full of infinite? What do we read in those hands outstretched, body racked with pain and writhing in agony? What but this—"While we were yet sinners Christ died for us, that whosoever

believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." "Freely ye have received."

The third window, bright with triumphant light, brings us to the Mount of Olives. From its green slopes our Saviour has gone up to heaven, and the little company of disciples, to whom He has been more than a master, more than a teacher and brother, stand gazing wistfully up into heaven. For the moment they may have felt deserted and lonely, but what was the reassuring message: "This same Jesus shall come again"—meanwhile He is seated at the right hand of God, from whence He shall come to judge both the living and the dead. And why did He ascend into heaven but that He might prepare a place for us, and send the Comforter to us, that He might apply His saving redemption to our hearts, and in order that we might know by the Holy Ghost "Freely ye have received." This is the divine side of God's will concerning liberality.

Let us make more of the divine side of liberality, then will the doctrine of giving freely as recorded



C. W. HERMAN HESS,
New President of Pennsylvania League.

in the Holy Scriptures not be trite, but precious to all who are accepted by Christ. Then, when men shall understand the exalted character of God's will concerning liberality, shall the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord.

Very briefly must we look at the human side of God's will concerning liberality. This is but another way of saying, God has been liberal to us, therefore we ought to be liberal toward Him. Freely shall we give, not grudgingly or because of necessity. This is not the way the world views the idea of liberality. The world says: Be liberal, but only to yourself. Get all you can regardless of what methods you use. Hoarding, saving, will make a big pile of money. Look out for Number One. This is the will of the world. But he who follows these maxims of the world may be called sharp, smart, clever and thrifty; but he cannot say that Jesus Christ is his Lord. Thus we see that all men by nature are opposed to liberality as God's will declares.

Let me say just here that we must not expect one who has just accepted Christ and begun the new life to be very liberal from the beginning of the Christian life. The development of the human side of liberality is not a thing of a day, and it is not

well that it should be. Our conception of the new life is different from that of other denominations. Our conception of the new life is first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. It is a gradual development rather than a leaping into the perfect stature of the man in Christ Jesus. Hence the human side of giving must have its place with all other graces and virtues in the development of the whole man.

What a task does this place upon the Luther League! To teach in season and out of season those who are its members the human side of God's will concerning liberality.

This is the task of the Luther League, to develop, to teach and so to mold the lives of both young and old that they have freely received, hence they should respond by freely giving.

But no matter how faithful the Luther League may be in this great task of teaching God's will concerning liberality, you may expect that men will forget their duty. Some time ago plans were being prepared for certain work of the Church, when one broke the monotony of the meeting by requesting that no collection be taken; yet God had blessed him above all the rest of his collaborators. Oh, when shall all men learn to know the human side of the will of God! "Freely ye have received, freely give."

There is only one sure test of true love to God for what we have freely received from Him. It is the doing at every sacrifice His Father's will without protesting. The cheerful abandonment of our will that we may unflinchingly do His will as it is done in heaven. This is the best evidence of our love to our Heavenly Father.

The good and gracious work of God is done indeed without our praying; but we pray that it may be done by us also.

The report of the credential committee showed an attendance of 151 delegates and 121 visitors, a total of 272 persons in the convention.

The report of the election committee was then presented by J. M. Deck, chairman, and showed the following persons to be elected:

President—C. W. Herman Hess, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Vice-President—Harry Hodges, Philadelphia, Pa.

Secretary—Miss Jane M. Truxal, Greensburg, Pa.

Assistant secretary—Miss Dorothy Weiser, Pottstown, Pa.

Statistician—Francis Leupold, Philadelphia, Pa.

Treasurer—M. Haller Frey, York, Pa.

The retiring president then made a few remarks welcoming the new president to his office.

A rising vote of thanks was then given the retiring president, Mr. P. Walter Banker, for his services during the past four years, and the new president, C. W. Herman Hess, took the chair. He spoke a few words acknowledging the honor conferred upon him.

Announcements were made and the convention adjourned.

Visiting Leaguers were then treated to a trolley ride over the city.

The eighth and last session of the convention was held on Monday evening, September 21, at 7:45. Vesper services were

conducted by Rev. A. T. Michler, of Lebanon, Pa. The hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God," was sung, after which the evening address on the theme, "God's Will—The Basis of Interest in League Work," was delivered by Rev. Nathan R. Melhorn, of Reading, Pa.

At the close of this address a beautiful solo was sung by one of the young ladies of the choir.

The president announced that he would defer naming his committees until a later date.

The Luther League Rally Hymn was then heartily sung by the convention and the closing vespers were had. Thus ended the twenty-first annual convention of the Pennsylvania Luther League, which was very interesting and profitable and pleasant throughout.

A brief telegram from Boston says that in the fire that occurred in the Old Colonial Church the "vinegar Bible" came near being destroyed. Doubtless a great many persons who read that wondered what the "vinegar Bible" is and why it is designated by any such queer name. The Bible is the oldest in the United States. It was printed in 1717 at Oxford, England, by John Barrett, and in 1733 was presented to the Colonial Church by George II, who was then king. In the twentieth chapter of St. Luke, which contains the parable of the vineyard, at the top of the page is the title, "The Parable of Vinegar," and from that misprint it derived the name of the "vinegar Bible."

The "vinegar Bible" is not the oldest in the United States, as Casper Engelhaupt, our deputy county clerk, has a Bible that was printed in 1597. It is therefore 120 years older than the "vinegar Bible." *The Independent* gave a brief notice a few weeks ago of the Bible owned by Mr. Engelhaupt, and anyone can see it by calling at the county clerk's office, as it is kept in the vault there.

In front of Phillips Brooks' church in Boston there is a statue of the great preacher, and behind him, raised a little above him, the figure of Christ. In this way the artist sought to indicate the source of Phillips Brooks' power. He was a companion of Jesus. He imbibed the master's spirit, and sought to imitate Him in love and service.

"We all wish to be loved. We may not confess it, but it is true, and it is nothing to be ashamed of. Well, then, let us be worthy of being loved, and let us love."

Luther League Topics

First Sunday in Advent. Nov. 29, 1914.

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

Luke 1:1-4.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday, November 23—John 1:1-14.
Tuesday, November 24—1 Peter 5:1-11.
Wednesday, November 25—Gal. 3:1-14.
Thursday, November 26—Acts 11:4-18.
Friday, November 27—Romans 10:11-17.
Saturday, November 28—John 12:20-26.
Sunday, November 29—Luke 1:1-4.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Open with instrumental music. Read responsively 23d Psalm. All sing Gloria Patri. Select and sing two favorite hymns.

Read Luke 1:1-4 responsively, conducted by the leader of the meeting. Prayer by the pastor. Explain the meaning of "The Christian Year" (see Catechism).

Summarize discussion in The Topics, and also in THE REVIEW. Appoint some one to show how the Scripture Lessons are arranged for the Church year (see your hymn book). Appoint some one to show how psalms and hymns are arranged for the Church year (see your hymn book). It is a good time and a good way to learn to know your Church's hymn book. Appoint some one to enumerate the festivals and different seasons of the Church year. Appoint some one to give the colors for the altar cloths for the seasons of the Church year. Make the meeting educational. Close as in Luther League Hymnal.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. Paul W. Koller.)

With this Sunday we enter the season of Advent in our Church or Christian year. This, as we all know, is the beginning of the Church year. Before us stretch out the blessed seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Trinity. These seasons, with their wonderful lessons and customs, have been given to us by the Church that we may be better Christians and more efficient subjects of the great King.

It will richly pay every Luther Leaguer to carefully read and study the significance and teachings of these holy seasons of the Church. They have stood the test of centuries and are growing in their influence upon the Church life of today.

The Christian year

1. *Honors the Word of God.* "In the Lutheran Church days are observed for the sake of the Word of God given on them, not as if one day were in itself holier than another. Therefore, from the lessons we may learn the significance of a day or season in the Church year." This significant statement is from the Lutheran Cyclopaedia. It means much and contains one of the secrets of the Lutheran Church's growth and power. The Church year does not put any day or season with its customs before the Word of God. On the other hand, it is the fact or truth that the Word of God teaches that gives significance to the day or season. In this way the Bible is honored and its truths held up before men.

2. *Exalts Jesus Christ.* The days and seasons of the Church year center about the person and acts of Jesus Christ. While it is true that Pentecost tells of the coming of the Holy Spirit, and Trinity teaches and emphasizes the great truth that ours is a Triune God, and we are not to neglect or belittle these great facts and truths. Yet the central figure is Jesus Christ. He is constantly brought before our eyes and exalted by the lessons and customs of the Christian year. It is Jesus Christ who is the founder of the Church, and the source of life and salvation. The chief concern therefore of every Luther Leaguer should be to exalt Christ in his or her life.

3. *Emphasizes service.* With every Gospel lesson of the Church year there is also given, as you know, an epistle lesson. These epistle lessons are reminders of duty and service. They are the call to the practical living of the great truths taught by Jesus Christ whom the Gospel exalts. So we can say truly that the Christian year emphasizes the need of service, in and for the Church of the living God.

Therefore, on this opening Sunday of the new Church year we ought to ask ourselves as to what we can do to make this year a blessed one for our Church. This is a good time to make resolutions for better living and service. That man is foolish and stupid who does not seize the eras of his life for summoning resolve toward better, more faithful and holier living. Certainly no one can live better who does not resolve to do it. This Advent season is such an era in our lives, it opens a new year for Christ and His Church. Let us with God's help make this Church year a year of better living and more effective service.

QUESTIONS.

1. How did the observance of the Christian year start?
2. How were the lessons gotten?
3. Of what value has its observance been to the Lutheran Church?
4. What is its value to you individually?

Second Sunday in Advent. Dec. 6, 1914.
REV. PROF. LARS PAUL ESBJORN
(Swedish Pioneer)

Luke 12:31-36.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday, November 30—Matt. 6:24-34.
Tuesday, December 1—Matt. 11:28-30.
Wednesday, December 2—Matt. 19:23-30.
Thursday, December 3—Matt. 6:19-21.
Friday, December 4—Eph. 6:10-20.

The Luther League Topics, complete lessons (of which the above are outlines and reviews), in 32-page pamphlet, covering three months, can be supplied at rates given on page 35 by LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, Box 876, New York, N. Y.

Saturday, December 5—Luke 13:18-21.
 Sunday, December 6—Luke 12:31-36.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Consult Wolf's "Lutherans," Jacob's "Lutherans," Lenker's "Lutherans in All Lands," and Jensen's "American Lutheran Biographies."

Select two familiar hymns. Psalm 72 (read responsively). Gloria Patri. Hymn "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Scripture Lesson, Luke 12:31-36 (read by the president of the society. Prayer by the pastor. Solo or other music specially provided.

Remarks by the leader. Sing "The Church's One Foundation." Paper on "Pastor Esbjörn." Paper on "The Augustana Synod." Sing "My Church, My Church."

Read discussion in the REVIEW. Read discussion in The Topics.

Sing two verses of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Summing up by pastor. Announcements. Close as in The Topics.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. Ira O. Nothstein.)

Ten years before the last Swedish Lutheran pastor laboring among the descendants of the Swedish colonists on the Delaware passed to his eternal reward, a new emigration began from the land of Gustavus Adolphus toward the United States. By the year 1844 the number of Swedish settlers in this country had stirred many earnest souls in the mother country to pray that God would influence some pastors to go to America to minister to the scattered members of their household of faith in the Western wilderness.

These prayers were answered when, at the urgent request of many friends and with the promise of support from the Missionary Society of Stockholm, Rev. Lars Paul Esbjörn set sail during the summer of 1849.

Rev. Esbjörn was born October 16, 1808, in Delsbo, Helsingland, Sweden. On June 11, 1832, he was ordained to the office of the holy ministry at Upsala. He was a spiritually minded man, highly gifted, and well versed in many subjects and thus was just the man needed to face the trials and organize the work of a pioneer Swedish church on the prairies of Illinois.

He served some years as an assistant pastor under Dr. Forsell in eastern Wähla. Later he became special pastor among the ironworkers at Oslättsfors and at the same time taught school in Hille. He was married to Miss Amalia Maria Louisa Gyllenboga, a gifted and consecrated woman who willingly faced the prospect of the pioneer life in the New World.

One hundred and forty persons accompanied Pastor Esbjörn with the intention of settling in a colony in the Mississippi valley. They sailed from Gefle in the Swedish brig "Cobden." At Helsingborg, where the ship lay over for one night, Pastor and Mrs. Esbjörn were called upon to lay to rest one of their children, who had died during the day. This incident formed a bond

of affectionate union with the mother country which time could not break.

On their arrival in New York this company were met by a Captain Widerström, who offered to act as their guide through the country. He had been a member of the Bishop Hill colony (a communistic sect), but had left them and now resided at Andover, Illinois. In New York at that time there was a land association which had bought up considerable land in Henry County, Illinois, and had laid out a town called Andover. Because this "association" agreed to donate ten acres of land for the proposed Swedish Lutheran Church and parsonage, Pastor Esbjörn concluded to take his colony to Andover instead of to Knox County, Illinois, which had been his original destination.

The journey was made by canal boat to Buffalo, thence by steamer to Chicago. When passing Detroit another of Pastor Esbjörn's children died and was buried on the shore of Lake St. Clair.

At Chicago, Pastor Esbjörn became sick with the cholera, thus forcing his family to remain, while the company went on under the guidance of Widerström. Undergoing many terrible hardships, they finally reached their destination. When Pastor Esbjörn arrived at Andover some three weeks afterward, he found to his dismay that most of his company had been persuaded by a Methodist preacher to settle in Victoria where the latter was doing a proselyting work among the Lutheran Swedes. He accomplished his nefarious work by telling these simple minded Swedes that Esbjörn would organize a state Church, set himself up for a bishop and that the Methodists of America were the real, true followers of Martin Luther!

This was only the beginning of trials for this pioneer Lutheran pastor. Their first home was two rooms in a small dwelling house. At first these rooms also served a church. The pioneer settlers were glad to hear the preaching of God's Word in their mother tongue and according to the confessions of the Lutheran Church.

Pastor Esbjörn's countrymen were destitute and could pay almost nothing towards his support. In his extremity, he had to accept an appropriation of \$300 a year from the American Home Missionary Society for several years. This society represented and usually worked for the interests of the Congregationalists and Presbyterians. The California gold fever took away some of his flock. The Methodist preacher, Hedström, of the Victoria colony, continued to prejudice newly arriving Swedes against the

"state church." Finally Pastor Esbjörn organized a congregation at Andover with ten members. He also organized congregations at Galesburg, Swedona and Moline, besides doing missionary work in the surrounding territory.

He went on a soliciting tour among the English and German Lutheran Churches in the Eastern States and collected the funds with which to build the first church buildings.

In 1852 he welcomed the Rev. T. N. Hasselquist from Sweden, who became pastor at Galesburg and surrounding country. The next year another pastor, the Rev. Erland Carlsson, came and took up the work at St. Charles and Chicago. With the succeeding years more help came and the work grew with surprising rapidity.

The Augustana Synod was organized in 1860 and the same year the Augustana Seminary was begun in the basement of the Swedish Lutheran Church at Chicago, with Prof. L. P. Esbjörn as the first and only professor. For two years previous to this he had served as Professor of Theology and the Scandinavian Languages and Literature in a General Synod seminary at Springfield, Illinois.

Finally, worn out with the strenuous labors of his pioneer service, he returned to Sweden, July, 1863, and in 1870 he fell asleep in the Lord. One son gave his life for the cause of the Union in the Civil War; another is still a faithful member of the Church in the motherland; another is an active layman in the Gloria Dei (English Lutheran) Church of St. Paul, Minnesota; another, Rev. Dr. Constantine Esbjörn, has already laid down his life in honored service in the Augustana Synod; and still another son is an honored member of the present faculty at Augustana College; while the son of his oldest daughter is the Topics Secretary of the Luther League of America.

Third Sunday in Advent. Dec. 13, 1914.

"ALL HER LIVING"

Luke 21:1-4.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday, December 7—Mark 12:41-44.
Tuesday, December 8—II Cor. 8:9-15.
Wednesday, December 9—II Cor. 9:6-15.
Thursday, December 10—Matt. 6:1-4.
Friday, December 11—Deut. 15:7-11.
Saturday, December 12—Psalm 112:1-10.
Sunday, December 13—Luke 21:1-4.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Hymn 61 (hymn in Luther League Hymnal). Psalm 19 (read responsively). Gloria Patri. Hymn 72. Scripture Lesson, Luke 21:1-4 (read by the leader). Prayer by the pastor. Hymn 79. Solo, "Like as the Heart Desireth," by Allitsen, or a substitute for this.

Scripture passages: Psalm 68:18-25; Rom. 12:6; I Cor. 1:7; Isa. 30:23; Acts 14:17. (Let the leader give these out and call for them in the meeting.)

Arrange for a paper on "Giving—God's Will for Us." Arrange for a talk on "The Business of Giving." Instrumental music, "The Lost Chord," or a substitute.

Discussion in The Topics. Discussion in THE REVIEW. Hymn 165.

Have some layman or officer in the Church explain the needs of the Church and why each one should help support the Church (ten minutes only).

Announcements. Close as in The Topics.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. Paul W. Koller.)

This lesson is one with regard to Beneficence, which makes up so great and important a part of our Christian service. The Church is awakening to the fact that we are truly pleasing God when we give of our money for the benefit of our fellows. Especially is this true when we give of our worldly goods that men may know Jesus Christ, and the power of His Gospel. Our Scripture tells us of a poor woman who brought her offering of two mites and with a willing heart gave it into the temple treasury. Our Master beheld her act and commended it in glowing terms.

I. *Our lives are under divine observation.*

—Mark says that Jesus sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury. Jesus was carefully observing the people and their offerings. These people were under His observation. So are we all. Not simply in a general way, but also in the way of exact and searching observation. Jesus saw each separate gift and understood its relation to the character of the one who made it. We can only see the outside of our fellows. We cannot go back into the hidden and mysterious realms of conscience and motive. But God knows all life, even in its most hidden depth. And not only does He know, but He sees as one who cares. This truth is at times a comfort, and again a cause of deep concern. We can be sure from the conduct of Christ in our lesson that our Lord observes us as we make our offerings, and knows just what relation they bear to our characters.

II. *The true moral value of an action.*—

In what Jesus has to say about this gift and the conduct of the poor widow, we find the true test and measure of the moral quality of an action. At first sight the judgment passed by Christ seems very strange. He said, "Verily, I say unto you, this poor widow hath cast in more than all they that cast in to the treasury."

Surely, as men judge, her offering was not as great as some others, for two mites are not more than many dollars. If you are going to use them as men use money: to build, to furnish, to repair the temple, and buy animals for the sacrifice, then your mites will do very little, and much money will do a great deal. And this is the test that men apply. But the real test as to

the moral quality of an action is something altogether different. The intention of the doer is what God looks at. It is intention which gives to an act a great moral value. Now the intention or motive of this poor widow is most costly; for she gave out of her poverty with her heart filled with love and desire for the cause of God. God's scales are hung in the realm of motive and purpose.

Fellow Leaguers, we need this lesson in our giving. God's cause and the welfare of our fellowmen make it imperative that we give of our temporal goods. The call for the Gospel is louder today than ever before. The sorrow and distress in the world, because of war, is greater now than at any other time of which we know. We need to bring our gifts and consecrate them to the Lord. The larger our gifts the greater the good that can be done. But for yourself, remember, that you will only be blessed as your motive is right, and your heart so filled with love for God and His children that you are willing to sacrifice for them and Him.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS.

1. What passages of Scripture urge beneficence?
2. To what objects of benevolence does your local Church give?
3. Is your giving a sacrifice?



Fourth Sunday in Advent. Dec. 20, 1914.

THE HOLY SPIRIT (Art. III)

John 14:23-26.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday, December 14—John 16:7-15.
 Tuesday, December 15—John 15:26-27.
 Wednesday, December 16—Acts 1:1-8.
 Thursday, December 17—I Cor. 12:4-11.
 Friday, December 18—Rom. 12:6-8.
 Saturday, December 19—Psalm 51:1-14.
 Sunday, December 20—John 14:23-26.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Instrumental music, Prelude. Open as in Luther League Hymnal. Hymn 62. Psalm 95 (read responsively). Gloria Patri.

Scripture Lesson (read responsively, conducted by the leader), John 14:23-36. Prayer (collect, "For the Holy Spirit," page x). Hymn 74.

Discussion in the REVIEW. Discussion in The Topics. Hymns 122, 129.

Have a good reader, then read the Third Article and Luther's Explanation. Special music, "Praise the Lord," by Randegger, or a substitute.

Have arrangements made for one or two talks on the topic by having consulted Gerberding's "Way of Salvation." Ask the pastor to explain the place and work of the Holy Spirit.

Chant the Lord's prayer and close as in the Luther League Hymnal.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. J. E. Zimmerman.)

In our study of the Apostles' Creed we now come to the Third Article, which treats of sanctification.

"As it was Christ who accomplished the work of redemption, so it is the Holy Ghost who offers us the means whereby we can

appropriate that redemption to ourselves. The means is faith, the effect of faith is justification."

It was on the night of the betrayal of our Master, when He had the twelve together in the upper room, that He told them more plainly what should happen to Him; but He did not stop when He had finished telling them of these sad events; He goes on and promises that He will pray the Father and He will give them another Comforter, who would abide with them forever. This Comforter we are told is the Holy Ghost. He would teach them all things. All this was fulfilled on and after the Day of Pentecost, when they were again assembled in that upper room.

It is not to be inferred that the Holy Spirit did not exist or was not an active power in the universe before this. We know that He was present at creation and that it was through the inspiration of the Spirit that the Prophets spoke and wrote, and it was this same Spirit that guided Moses and begat faith in the hearts of the Patriarchs. But on the Day of Pentecost the disciples were given a special manifestation of the Holy Ghost. Then it was that the promise of John 14:26 was fulfilled in a special manner and no more do we hear of the disciples lamenting the absence of the visible Christ. They were there made to realize what office the Holy Spirit was to fill in the hearts and lives of men. Before this time, while the Holy Ghost was active, guiding, enlightening, inspiring and sanctifying, He was not generally recognized as a distinct personage of the Trinity. But from this time the disciples and all believers were made to realize that faith cometh by the Holy Ghost. The disciples were made to know that they could only preach and teach with effectiveness when the Holy Ghost was guiding them and giving power, and opening to them the hidden truths of Scripture. The evangelists were made to recognize His power when He brought all things to their remembrance, whatsoever Christ had said to them. Every preacher in the pulpit, every teacher in the Sunday School, every seeker after a deeper knowledge of God, knows that he can only preach with power, only teach with effect and influence, only attain the desired knowledge, when the Holy Spirit is back of him, giving him the desired strength and understanding.

We have heard the question asked, "Is the Holy Spirit less powerful today than He was on the Day of Pentecost, when He came upon the disciples with such overpowering force? No, the Holy Ghost will exercise the same powers over us today as He did then, if we but open our hearts to Him. The dis-

ciples were all with one accord in prayer at that time, and when the Church of Christ is a unit in its desires and purposes the Spirit manifests His power today just as He did then, to convince men of sin and bring them to repentance and justification through faith in the Redeemer.

Furthermore, in order to realize His power more fully, we must do the will of God. "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." If we could understand His word and grow in faith, we must place ourselves in a position to receive the light and power by obedience to His commands.

This should be the great burning desire of every member of the Luther League—to have a fuller realization of the power of the Spirit in our hearts, and also a greater manifestation of His influence upon the world. United prayer and obedience will bring this result.

In conclusion, one word of warning. Never be guilty of referring to the Holy Spirit as a mere influence, and never speak of Him or refer to Him by using the neuter pronoun "it," as is so often done by thoughtless or ignorant persons. "The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead, of the same essence with the Father and the Son, who from eternity proceeds from the Father and the Son and in time is sent forth by both, to sanctify the hearts of those who are to be saved."

Christmas. December 27, 1914.

THE HOLY CHILD: A SIGN

Luke 2:12.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday, December 21—Gen. 3:14-15.
Tuesday, December 22—Isa. 2:2-4.
Wednesday, December 23—Luke 1:26-38.
Thursday, December 24—Matt. 1:18-25.
Christmas, December 25—Luke 2:1-11.
Saturday, December 26—Luke 2:22-39.
Sunday, December 27—Luke 2:12.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Organ prelude. Hymns 78 and 73. Psalms 100 and 24 (read responsively). Gloria Patri. Solo, "In Thee, O God, Do I Put My Trust," by Spicker, or a substitute.

Scripture, Luke 2:1-18. Prayer. Hymns 76 and 81. Remarks by the leader.

Synopsis by some one of the discussion in The Topics and THE REVIEW. Hymns 86 and 85. Christmas address by the pastor.

The League might arrange some simple but interesting feature for this service, according to local conditions and requirements. If desired, it could be made a service for the whole congregation. Make arrangements in advance.

Close as in Luther League Hymnal. Hymns 89 and 88.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. Paul W. Koller.)

The scenes of this Holy Night have never ceased to interest and charm humanity. Shepherds are watching their flocks by night in the fields near to Bethlehem, when suddenly an angel messenger appears amid

the bright glory of a wonderful celestial light. At first they are affrighted, but the angel says, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." We know how these shepherds did go to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. By that sign they knew Him to be the one of whom the angel had told them. In the light of revelation and what the centuries have taught us, we can see that the Holy Child is to us a sign of many things in our religion. The Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes was not only a sign to the shepherds by which they might know their Saviour, but the Holy Child stands as a sign by which we may detect the extent, the character and the great principle of our faith.

1. The sign of childhood could be understood by every race and every person the world over. In every land the faces of children were to be seen. In the rude northern regions the mother sang her babe to rest with a prayer to her gods that it might be kept safe from harm. In the soft air and the fragrant gardens of the East the children roamed none the less loved by their parents because the dangers were few. Everywhere, in homes of poverty and in those of wealth, childhood appealed to the love or the pity of mankind. It needed no elaborate explanation; all could understand the sign of the child. Other religions had their sacred signs, but they were limited in character. Not so with the sign of Christianity. The sign of the child stood and stands for universality, for a world-wide religion. I need not tell you how this conception was in the mind of Christ, and how this has been the spirit of Christianity down through the ages. It is for all men, high or low, rich and poor.

2. The sign of a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger predicts not only the universality of our religion, but also its character.

When we remember the features of the religious character which Christ came to teach men, no more suitable emblem than this of the "child" could be found. It was indeed, in set terms that Christ so defined the condition of citizenship in the Kingdom which He came to establish. "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." The childlike character

(Continued on page 26)



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE
ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE

Luther League of America

IN THE INTERESTS OF
The Lutheran Church and Her Young People
Edited by E. F. EILERT

WITH
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AS SPECIAL ASSOCIATES,

And the co-operation of the Executive Committee of the Luther League of America.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS A YEAR

Club Terms on Application

Remittances may be made in stamps, Post Office or Express Money Order, Draft, or Registered Letter. Address all communications and send all remittances to

Luther League Review

P. O. Box 876, New York

Entered at the N. Y. Post Office as Second Class Matter.
Publication Office, 216-218 William Street, New York.

✧ Editorial ✧

November brings the return of our annual National Thanksgiving Day. We have as a nation cause for giving thanks to God for His particular mercies. We may well exclaim with the Psalmist, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." He has given us a land that is no wilderness and He has given food to all flesh. Ours is an heritage of His mercy and goodness.

One of the events for which November is memorable is, it is the birth-month of Martin Luther. November 10 commemorates the birth of this eminent servant of God. At this time the eyes of all civilized countries are converged on this hero of the Reformation. In 1917 will occur the quadricentennial of the Reformation he inaugurated when on October 31, 1517, he nailed his ninety-five theses to the worm-eaten door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg. Unto

God he was a chosen vessel, a mighty servant.

In these days there is much criticism of Christians and their lives, and the inconsistencies of our Church members is the pretext of many a man and woman for remaining out of the Church. Often what is considered an inconsistency on our part as Christians is the desire to live according to principle. The time is coming—yea, now is—when the success of the Gospel will depend upon the life of each Christian, of each man and woman who professes to be a follower of Jesus Christ; we in our training as young people must learn the principles of true living, and by God's help must live according to those principles, if we desire to please Him who gave His life for us. It is to be noted that St. Luke, in speaking of the life of Christ, says that "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." In other words, the individual who serves God has the respect of man. Let me call your attention to the command of God to each one of us: "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

And the assurance of success which he furnishes: "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

This is not intended as a sermon, but simply as a hint, that as we take into our mouths the food which strengthens our bodies, so we may take into our hearts the

meat which perisheth not, but serves to revive and strengthen us for the performance of the duties which God has presented to us.

Advent again returns. Another Christian year is open. It presents an outlook over the whole Church year. The past and the present merge. Joy springs in the breast because of the Messiah's birth; and our thoughts turn to him in his final coming as our Triumphant Deliverer.

The opening of the Church year is an opportunity to take stock and plan. How have we invested in the year closing in service for Christ? The profits are commensurate to our interest. We have no larger dividends than the investment we have made in personal service. Are we satisfied? Then plan larger things. Resolve and execute the resolve for a more determined effort. Make a decided improvement over the past. The earliest Christians spent this season as they did other periods of preparation, in fasting and prayer. This season of the Church year suggests preparation. It will be one way of securing larger blessings by greater service.

Lutheran Youth, published by the joint Synod of Ohio in the interest of its young people, calls attention to one of the needs of the Church and the duty of its members in the following item, which is commended to all the readers of the REVIEW:

"When the Church refuses to work for the salvation of the heathen at home and abroad, it dies. But whatever sacrifices are made for missions return to the home Church in the form of spiritual quickening. Just now there is more interest in missions than there has been since the apostolic age, and glowing reports are coming in of what the increased zeal has done for the home Church. Here is a man who devotes the output of one of his largest factories to missions. Another is developing an oil field, and giving all the profits to the Lord. Another has given up his automobile that he may support a missionary of his own. Another man, with so large an income that he could be a millionaire if he so chose, says that he has read through the New Testament to see if there is any warrant there for accumulating riches in this world. As

he could not find any such encouragement, he is taking literally Christ's command, 'Lay not up for yourselves treasures on the earth, but lay up for yourself treasures in heaven,' and investing his money in the kingdom of God as rapidly as he makes it. Another, who has decided never to add to his present capital, says: 'You can't take your money to heaven with you, but you can send it on ahead of you.' Our informant, a writer for the *Sunday School Times*, adds: 'And these men are about the happiest men I have met in America.' Our Lutheran Church, including our Ohio Synod, has begun to fall into line. A steward over many things in Wheeling is good for a thousand a year and more for Capital University. Two stewards of the Lord in Illinois have given a thousand for our India mission. But let the Church never forget: your sons for the ministry are the chief requirement of the day!"

LOOKING AT THE BRIGHT SIDE

"How gloomy you look," said a bucket to his companion, as they were being lowered down into the well together. "Ah," said the other bucket, "I was just thinking how useless it is for us to be filled with water; for no matter how full we may be when we go up, we are always sure to come back empty."

"Why, dear me," said the other bucket, "how strange it is to look at it in that way! Now, I like to look at it differently. I say to myself: No matter how empty we may be when we come to the well, we are sure always to go away full. This is looking at it from the bright side. Try to look at it in this way, and you will be as contented and cheerful as I am."

One young man learned to yoke himself with irresistible power. A great weight had sunk in the sea near the shore, and tugs had strained at it in a fruitless effort to raise it. This young man was given a chance to try his hand. He towed a huge barge so that it floated above the sunken weight, and then he passed chains around it. When the tide went out he drew the chains tight and sat down and waited. The tide came in and raised both barge and weight. When we link ourselves with God, we are strong indeed.

"It is hard to be a Christian in many senses, but that is what makes it so well worth while to be a Christian."



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LUTHER LEAGUE TOPICS

(Continued from page 23)

was just the one the world needed most. The world was growing old, old in its philosophy, old in its creeds, old and weary in its ideals, and what it needed most was the child spirit and heart. This is what most of us need greatly today, the child heart of faith and love.

3. I might speak of many other things in our religion of which childhood is a blessed sign and token. But just one more is all we have space for. It is this: The Holy Child lying in a manger shows us that the way of life is through the vale of *humiliation and sacrifice*.

The little Babe of Bethlehem may proclaim other features of the faith He came to teach, but none more distinctly than this feature of humiliation and sacrifice. The forecast of Christ's life is here, and in days to come He is despised and rejected of men. This has been and always will be an element of true religion. We must be willing in humility to walk the way of self-denial and sacrifice.

The Church grows weak when it turns from this sign; when it strives to grasp riches and power rather than the staff of service. This is a lesson for us fellow Leaguers this blessed Christmas time. Who can resist the love of Christ who humbled Himself and as a little Child came to earth to save us from our sins.

QUESTIONS.

1. Why did Christ come to earth as a little child?
2. Is the Holy Child a sign of God's love?
3. Why does the Christ-Child appeal so strongly to us?
4. Are you, like the shepherds, seeking Him?

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NEW YORK

—St. Matthew's Church, Brooklyn, Rev. Gustav Somner, pastor, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its organization, October 6, and the thirtieth anniversary of the present pastorate on October 7.

—In connection with the tercentenary of the founding of this city, a great religious celebration was held in the Hippodrome, on Sunday afternoon, October 25. In a pamphlet issued in connection with this event, reference was made to the remarkable growth of the Lutheran Church in fifty years.

—Rev. F. E. Oberlander, D.D., has assumed charge of St. John's Church, succeeding Rev. J. J. Young, D.D., deceased.

—Among the beneficent bequests made by the late Hugo Reisinger, of this city, was one of \$5,000 to St. James' Church, Dr. Remensnyder, pastor.

PHILADELPHIA

—Rev. Arthur T. Michler was installed pastor of the Church of the Incarnation, October 11. Rev. Michler, before entering upon the work of the ministry was president of the Lutheran League of Pennsylvania.

—The annual dinner of the men of the Church of the Holy Communion was held Thursday evening, October 29, at the Hotel Rittenhouse. About seventy-five men were present. Judge William H. Staake addressed the men on "Reminiscences of the Church of the Holy Communion"; Rev. Walter C. Sandt (a former assistant pastor) spoke on "The Opportunities of the Church of the Holy Communion"; Mr. Harry Hodges spoke of "Adequate Efficiency"; Mr. Frank Schrenk spoke on "Boys, How to Get Them and How to Hold Them." Other addresses were made by the pastor, Rev. E. P. H. Pfatteicher, Ph.D., and Mr. Daniel Martin. Hon. Frank M. Riter acted as toastmaster. All the speakers are members of the congregation.

WASHINGTON

—St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Rev. William A. Wade, pastor, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its organization on October 4. A thank offering of \$3,500, to be applied upon the debt of the church, was made.

PITTSBURGH

—The Pittsburgh Inner Mission Society has secured as its superintendent, Rev. Ambrose Hering, who began his work last month.

BALTIMORE

—The Inner Mission Society of the Lutheran Church of Baltimore and Vicinity has elected

the Rev. Frederick W. Meyer as superintendent. Pastors are asked to drop a line to the superintendent whenever any of their people contemplate leaving home for a prolonged stay in Baltimore. He will look them up, try to be a friend to them and serve them. He will introduce them to one of the Lutheran Churches.

If there are any of your people now living in Baltimore who are not being looked after, send their names to Superintendent Meyer and he will be glad to help you to care for them.

Address your communications to 21 West Saratoga Street, Baltimore, Md., the present headquarters of the Inner Mission Board..

F. W. MEYER.

The cornerstone of the new Church of the Reformation, Rev. William E. Brown, pastor, was laid on September 27. The address was delivered by Rev. S. J. McDowell, D.D.

CLEVELAND

—Bethany Church has granted its pastor, Rev. O. H. Weaver, an extended leave of absence on account of impaired health.

SYRACUSE

—Rev. Dr. Edward L. Keller was installed pastor of the First English Lutheran Church, on September 27.

UTICA

—St. Matthew's Church of this city has called to its pastorate Rev. C. H. Thomsen, recently graduated from Susquehanna University.

JERSEY CITY

Trinity Church, Rev. Frederick Brezinski, pastor, celebrated its fortieth anniversary, November 1.

ROANOKE

—A recent religious census of this city, disclosed a very large gain in the number of Lutherans, and also the fact that the Lutherans are now the fourth largest denomination in that city.

GENERAL

—Mr. Osmund Wing, who died a short time ago, and who was an active layman of the United Norwegian Church and had always taken an intelligent part in the interests of the Church, left an estate of \$100,000, one-tenth of which he left to St. Olaf College and other institutions of the United Norwegian Church.

—Rev. J. C. Jacoby, D.D., Wellington, Kan., celebrated the thirty-fifth anniversary of his ministry, September 27.

—The Norwegian Synod has received a bequest of \$3,000 from the estate of Theo. Tween for benevolences.

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LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW

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New York City

Luther League



Conducted by I. S. RUNYON

SEND IN THE NEWS.—Under this heading we aim to give the fullest reports possible of all district and Local Leagues. Secretaries and other officers are earnestly solicited to send in reports and items of news promptly.

Luther League of America

Organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., October 30 and 31, 1895, by delegates representing State, District and individual organizations from twenty different States in the Union and District of Columbia.

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LUTHER LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Statement No. 1

From September 15 to October 31, 1914

General Fund—

Central California District.....	\$2.50
Christ's L. L., Long Island.....	2.00
Newport News, Va.....	1.00
Indiana State League.....	11.00
L. L. of Pennsylvania.....	136.88
Mrs. Iva A. Baltzy, special donation...	7.00
St. John's L. L., Washington, D. C....	1.80
Collection first session of convention...	23.14
Collection at rally.....	62.21

Total for Sept. 15 to Oct. 31.....\$247.53
Previously reported.....27.59

\$275.12
Total disbursement.....252.67

Balance on hand.....\$22.45

Respectfully submitted,

C. T. A. ANDERSON,
Treasurer.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT

—The services in St. Paul's Church, Port Chester, on Sunday, October 18, were in the interest of Luther League work. In the morning the Junior League interests were presented and at the evening service the Luther League celebrated its ninth anniversary. Sermons appropriate to the occasions were preached by the pastor, Rev. John Kopp. Both services were well attended. On the evening of October 25 Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, General Secretary of the Luther League of America, addressed St. Paul's League on the work of the Luther League.

St. Paul's Church was recently presented with a large bell, and some time ago received a gift of a pipe organ worth \$2,000.

RHINEBECK DISTRICT

—The Luther League of Christ's Lutheran Church, Germantown, Rev. William Edwin Traver, pastor, has for several years past been tithing its income, the tenth being used for benevolence of the Church. The society has a membership of sixty, and in addition to being one of the societies organizing the first District Luther League outside of New York City, has always been an active, energetic organization.

MOHAWK VALLEY DISTRICT

—The twenty-third annual convention of the Luther League of the Mohawk Valley District was held in St. John's Church, Canajoharie, October 20, 1914. At the morning session the devotional service was conducted by Rev. H. H. Miller, of Pittsburg, N. Y. Greetings were extended by Mr. Elmer Shineman, president of St. John's League. Mr. C. Ottman, president of the District League, responded. The report of the National Convention was read by Mrs. C. J. Withernax. Mr. O. Kraetschmar, chairman of the committee to consider the advisability of organizing a District Junior League, reported adversely for the following reasons:

1. The unavoidable expense to the boys and girls, such as traveling expense.
2. Interference with school duties.
3. Insufficient number of Junior societies in our district.
4. Lack of enthusiastic, capable leaders, to insure its success.

The corresponding secretary reported eighteen societies in the district, with a membership of

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1,033, a gain of ninety-six since the last convention. Thirteen of these societies hold religious meetings.

There are six Junior Leagues, with a membership of eighty.

Delegates from Trinity Church, Amsterdam, reported the organization of a Junior League in their Church.

The treasurer reported that he had received for district dues, \$74.85; the total disbursements were \$22.60; balance on hand, \$52.25.

The following motions were adopted:

1. That the names of the officers appear on programs.

2. That a committee of three be appointed to consider delegates to State Convention.

The following were appointed: Rev. Grubb, Rev. Fake and Mr. C. Schuchardt. The committee selected the following, who were elected as delegates: Mr. H. Parker, Schenectady; Louis Beil, Utica; Elmer Shineman, Canajoharie; Lillian Knack, Amsterdam; Lucy Alber, Troy.

The afternoon session was opened with devotional exercises, in charge of Rev. Rudisill, Johnstown.

There were two addresses at this session; the first was by Rev. G. C. Berklemier, D.D., whose subject was "Wake Up, Stand Up, and Help Up."

Rev. E. E. Hoshom, of Troy, spoke on the subject, "Formation-Deformation-Reformation."

A motion was adopted that each local League pay an assessment of six cents per member for the support of the Luther League of America, the same to be paid through the district treasurer.

The following officers were unanimously elected: President, Mr. Elmer Shineman, Canajoharie; vice-president, Mr. A. Diechner, Troy; treasurer, Mr. C. Schuchardt, Utica; corresponding secretary, Mr. Steinhurst, Utica; recording secretary, Miss Lillian Knack, Amsterdam.

The address of the evening, "The Luther League, the Training School of Our Church," was given by Rev. H. D. Shimer, of Hudson.

The Credentials Committee reported fourteen Leagues represented at convention, with fifty-four delegates and twenty-nine visitors.

The next convention will be held the third Tuesday in October, 1915, in St. Paul's Church, Utica.

—The Luther Leagues of Troy and vicinity held a largely attended and very enthusiastic and inspiring rally on October 7, in Trinity Lutheran Church, Troy, Rev. J. Duerschner,

pastor. The musical program of the evening was unusually fine. The principal speaker was Rev. U. H. Graves, of Schenectady, "Luther as the Ideal of the Germans." Rev. Dr. Oberholtzer, of Troy, and Rev. J. Duerschner also made a few remarks. The service was followed by a social hour.

—The Luther League of Gilead Lutheran Church, Center Brunswick, Rev. A. J. Traver, pastor, has recently defrayed the expense of installing city water in the parsonage. During the winter, this society is arranging a high grade entertainment course.

BUFFALO DISTRICT

—The quarterly meeting of the Buffalo District Luther League was held in Concordia Church, Buffalo, Rev. Drach, pastor, and was well attended. The District League passed a resolution voting \$150 to the Inner Mission of Buffalo. It was decided to give over one quarterly meeting to the Inner Mission cause, and one to that of Home Missions. The District League sent greetings to Dr. Kahler on the completion of his thirty years of work in Buffalo. It was decided to hold the annual banquet November 24. Rev. G. M. Bock and Rev. S. G. Tresler have been invited to speak.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT

—The Fall Convention of the Philadelphia District Luther League, was held Tuesday, October 27, 1914, in the Church of the Holy Communion, the Rev. E. P. H. Pfatfeicher, Ph.D., pastor. At the afternoon session the business of the convention was transacted, including the adoption of a new constitution. The reports showed that great progress was being made and the outlook for the future was especially bright. Miss Ida H. Zinser made the reports for the delegates to the recent State Convention at Lancaster, and Mrs. B. B. Harker for the National Convention held at Baltimore, Md. The service was conducted by the Rev. F. A. Bowers and the president, Francis C. Leupold presided. Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, general secretary, addressed the convention. At the evening session the Rev. Charles M. Jacobs made an address on "The Church and Present-Day Problems." Appropriate resolutions were drawn up on the death of Mrs. Lillian Weaver Cassaday, a faithful member of the District League since its beginning. The president, Mr. Leupold, also spoke of her loss to the Luther League.

The following officers were elected: President, J. Milton Deck; vice-president, Carl Fro-muth; recording secretary, Laura A. Shaffer; statistical secretary, Ida H. Zinser; financial secretary, Mrs. B. B. Harker; treasurer, Frederick Bernhardt.

The next convention will be held Tuesday, May 25, 1915.

—The Luther League of the Church of the Holy Communion entertained the Lutheran students of the University of Pennsylvania at an informal reception in the parish house, October 17, 1914. Upwards of sixty students were present and brief remarks were made by the pastor, Rev. Dr. E. P. H. Pfatfeicher, Hon. F. M. Riter, W. H. Kaufman, Rev. W. J. Miller, Rev. F. Doerr, Rev. J. W. Hauser, Mrs. W. J. Miller, Assistant General Secretary Harry Hodges of the National Luther League, and F. C. Leupold.

The second reception of the season will be held the last week in November, in Tabernacle Church, Rev. W. J. Miller, pastor.

This is the third year that this method has been pursued to interest out-of-town students who are Lutheran in attending nearby Churches.

ALLENTOWN DISTRICT

—The Allentown District Luther League will meet on Tuesday, November 10, in St. Paul's Church, Catasauqua.

BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT

—The eighty-second quarterly convention of the Berks County District was held on October 17, at Christ's Church, Grill.

The morning session was devoted to the transaction of business, and the reports of the delegates to the State and National conventions. A paper on the topic of the morning, "The Individual—His Opportunity for Service," was read by Miss Stella Tabor, of Boyertown.

The afternoon session opened at 2 p. m. with devotional services conducted by the Rev. A. M. Weber, of Boyertown. The topic, "The Organization" (the Luther League), was divided under three heads: (a) "Its Material," Mr. Garson Huyett, Alsace, Pa.; (b) "Its Achievement," Rev. Kidd, Womelsdorf, Pa.; (c) "Its Outlook," Rev. N. R. Melhorn, Reading, Pa.

The topic, "The Junior League," was presented by Mr. S. E. Knabb, of Reading, the paper having been prepared by Rev. M. G. Zweizig.

After the discussion on the various topics, the convention elected the following: President, Mr. C. D. Leinbach, Womelsdorf; first vice-president, Mr. Edwin Nyce, Reading; second vice-president, Mr. Neatock, Grill; treasurer, A. P. Body, Reading; recording secretary, Emma N. Fritz, Boyertown; corresponding secretary, Lillie M. Geiger, Reading; statistician, Miss Stella Tabor, Boyertown; literature secretary, Sadie G. Armstrong, Reading.

The convention was very largely attended, and the air of fellowship which prevailed among the delegates added to the convention.

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

—The Fall Convention of the Pittsburgh District Luther League will be held in Memorial Church, N. S., Pittsburgh, Tuesday, November 17. A good program is being arranged by the executive committee and it is the aim to make this one of the best conventions ever held.

Branch No. 1 held their fall rally in St. John's Church, New Castle, Thursday evening, October 22, the subject being "Conservation Plus Work Spells Success." Branch No. 3 held its fall rally in Christ Church, Beaver Falls, Friday evening, October 23, subject, "My Church; What It Means to Me."

Erwin L. Kuffner, chairman of the Extension Committee of the Pittsburgh District Luther League, has entered Thiel College to study for the ministry.

C. W. Herman Hess, president of the Pittsburgh District League, was honored by being elected president of the Pennsylvania State League at the convention held in Lancaster.

OHIO

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

—The District Luther League of Northwestern Ohio held its regular fall convention in Grace Church, Toledo, October 21. Morning sermon was preached by Rev. Bunting, of Toledo, and the afternoon theme was: "Christian Fellowship"—"Personal," by Harry Loehrke; "Organization," by George W. Smith; "World Wide," by Otto C. Rohde.

The evening sermon was preached by Rev. Alvin Bell, of Toledo. The whole convention was a great success.

At the business session the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: President, George W. Smith, Toledo; vice-president, Chas.

Hemlein, Defiance; recording secretary, Henrietta Biglin, Toledo; corresponding secretary, Miss D. Bremer, Toledo; treasurer, Chas. Ehrhardt, Toledo.

At that time an invitation was extended to the National Luther League to hold its convention in 1916 in Toledo.

SCIOTO VALLEY DISTRICT

—The fourth annual convention of the Scioto Valley District League will meet in St. John's Church, Delaware, Rev. E. C. Dolbeer, pastor, on the day after Thanksgiving. This will give teachers and students, etc., an opportunity to attend and a large convention is expected. Delaware is preparing for the event.

TOLEDO DISTRICT

—The Luther League of Martin Luther Church, Toledo, has for several years kept the Lutheran, the Lutheran Church Review and the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW in the Toledo Public Library, and it is largely due to the Luther League devotional meetings in Martin Luther Church that one of its members, Miss Caroline Ewald, has entered the Mary Drexel Deaconess Home at Philadelphia to prepare for the deaconess calling. Thursday evening, October 22, forty Luther Leaguers of the Martin Luther Church met at Miss Ewald's home to congratulate her and expressed their sincere pleasure. They presented Miss Ewald with a gold cross and chain. Miss Nelson, of Trinity Church, Toledo, is also at the Philadelphia Mother House preparing for the same work.

—The Luther League of St. Paul's Church, Newark, Rev. George Bohon Schmitt, pastor, recently presented to the congregation five beautiful sets of altar vestments. The work was done by members of the League. The beauty and appropriateness of the designs on each set of vestments have been highly praised.

INDIANA

—The District Luther League of Central Indiana held its convention in Fair Haven Church, near Mulberry, Rev. W. J. Seiberling, pastor, on Sunday, October 18. This District League consists of Batesville, First Church, Indianapolis, St. Mark's, Indianapolis, New Augusta, Whitestown, Frankfort, Mulberry, Fair Haven, Lafayette, and Otterbein, and each had a good delegation at the convention.

The meeting began with devotional services conducted by Rev. A. H. Arbaugh, president of Weidner Institute. An excellent talk was given on "What Our League Should Do This Winter," by Mr. Whitney Spiegel, First Church, Indianapolis. It showed that he was interested in his subject. He said, (1) increase our membership and attendance ten per cent.; (2) see if we can't find some Lutherans in our community who are not attending church and bring them into the Church again through the Luther League; (3) always begin on time. This was followed by interesting discussion.

The State president, Rev. E. D. S. Boyer, of Lafayette, gave an interesting report from the national convention held in Baltimore.

The following officers were elected: President, Mr. Oliver C. C. Fetta, St. Mark's, Indianapolis; vice-president, Mr. William Baotman, Mulberry; recording secretary, Miss Anna Hansen, St. Mark's, Indianapolis; corresponding secretary, Miss Vida Boyer, Lafayette; treasurer, Mr. Ernest Myer, New Augusta.

Supper was served in the basement to about 150 people.

At the evening session the pastor loci conducted the vespers and Rev. L. W. Sifferd, of St. Mark's, delivered an excellent sermon on

"Be Ye Doers of the Word." This convention was a success in every way and showed much interest and enthusiasm.

The meeting in the spring will be held in Batesville.

KENTUCKY.

—A Luther League has been organized among the young people of the Lutheran Church at Bellevue, Rev. La Verne G. Ogden, pastor.

NORTH CAROLINA.

WESTERN DISTRICT

—The third convention of the District Luther League of western North Carolina was held in Emanuel Church, Lincolnton, November 5-6. The address of welcome was delivered by the pastor, Rev. Enoch Hite, and the response by Mr. C. N. Yount. "The Luther League, a Unifier of the Different Types of Lutherans in the United States" was the subject of the address by Rev. J. H. Wannemacher, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Hickory, N. C. At 7:30 p. m. devotional services were followed by an address, "The Luther League, a Developer of Spiritual Leadership in the Congregation," by Rev. A. R. Beck, of Dallas, N. C. A social hour followed. On Friday morning, after devotional services, an address, "The Luther League, a Promoter of Love and Loyalty in the Lutheran Church," was delivered by Rev. J. C. Dietz.

KANSAS

—On the evening of September 25 the Luther League of Atchison gave the annual reception to the students of Midland College. It was one of the most enjoyable social functions that have been given by the local society.

The officers of the League are planning a membership campaign and it is planned to increase the membership to at least 125 by January 1, 1915.

The officers of the Atchison League are: Evan Tonsing, president; Lena Hodson, vice-president; Minnie Fortune, secretary; Dolores Gaston, treasurer.

—In connection with the annual mission festival service at Glasco a union Luther League meeting was held in the evening, the societies of our churches at Minneapolis, Glasco and Beloit participating in the service.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE DISTRICT

—The Baltimore District Luther League is planning to repeat, in January, the "Drama of the Reformation," which was such a feature of the recent National Luther League Convention.

(Continued on page 34)



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The Junior Luther League

BY REV. ARTHUR T. MICHLER, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

THE JUNIOR PERIOD.

At the eleventh convention of the Luther League of America, recently held in Baltimore, the period of Junior Work was practically defined and the character of the work was indicated. When the convention received and adopted the report of the Committee on Boys' Work (see page 27, October issue of the REVIEW), it took a mighty step forward. Therefore work among our Juniors will hereafter be planned and carried on among our boys and girls of the pre-confirmation age or in round numbers from ten to sixteen years, inclusive. This is what is meant by Junior Luther League Work. For meeting the modern needs of our boys and girls, as well as for greater efficiency in guiding them through this most important period and keeping them in our Bible School and Church, the work should be organized and carried on in two separate Leagues, each with their own superintendents and officers. The programs and topics will therefore be planned and treated with this in view. The material on these two pages of the REVIEW is arranged for the development of such a work, and in future issues, a setting forth of purposes and principles, as well as hints and helps, for all interested, will follow. If there are any suggestions to offer, send them to the Editor of the REVIEW and they will be carefully considered by the committee.

TOPICS FOR NOVEMBER.

The suggested topics for November are based upon the general thought of the Reformation and the prominence it holds in the history and service of our Church. With Thanksgiving Day and the beginning of the Advent season also coming in this month, the last two topics are therefore arranged to harmonize with these facts.

The topic for the week of November 9, deals with Luther's birth and early life. The superintendent can consult any reliable life of Luther or articles in the standard Encyclopedias. The main thought of the topic should be the humble character of Luther's birth and the strictness of his home training as compared with that of the present. Other original lessons should be suggested by the superintendent.

The topic for the week of the 16th, is "The Greatness of God's Word." The main lesson here is that God is in His written Word which makes the Scriptures necessary for our boys and girls. This was the great Reformation truth, which we should realize and practice more than we do today.

The topic for the week of the 23rd, gives us many reasons for rendering unto God our thanks. The suggested Psalm speaks of Israel's rich blessings in detail. These should be applied in a vital manner to the experiences of the present day.

The topic for the week of the 30th, paints several pictures of how Christ's coming into the world was foretold. Each reference has its own lesson, namely, that of eternal enmity and final victory; that of His greatness; of His Kingly Righteousness, and that of His purifying power. Each reference should be given to a different member of the League to prepare a brief composition on it at home.

TOPICS FOR WEEKS IN NOVEMBER.

- Nov. 9. "Luther's Birth and Early Life." (Consult any reliable life of Luther.)
Nov. 16. "The Greatness of God's Word." John 1:1-14.
Nov. 23. "Reasons for Thanksgiving." Psalm 136.
Nov. 30. "Christ's Coming Foretold." Gen. 3:14, 15; Is. 9:6, 7; Jer. 23:5, 6; Mal. 3:1-3.

SUGGESTED WEEKLY PROGRAM.

- Leader—(Appointed older boy or girl.)
Organist or Pianist—(Older boy or girl, if possible.)
Hymn. Psalm—(To be selected by Leader.)
Prayer—(Read by some Junior from L. L. Hymnal.)
Hymn. Scripture Memory Work—(II Sam. 1:19-27, inclusive.)
Roll Call. Offering. Hymn.
Scripture Reading—(By appointed Junior.)
Hymn.
Topic—(See Topics for November. Presented in composition form by appointed Junior.)
Remarks—(By Superintendent or Assistant.)
Lord's Prayer. Adjournment.
Social Hour—(If League meets some weekday evening or morning.)

PRESENTATION OF TOPICS.

The proper presentation of Junior League Topics is most important, both for the members of the League as well as for the Superintendents and Assistants. Considering our Junior Leaguers first, it is a well known principle that we learn by doing. Apply this to our League work and our boys and girls will learn, rapidly, thoroughly and efficiently, by doing. In the use of the topics, have a different member of the League read, each week, the suggested topic at home and from a proper reading and study of the topic at home, prepare a composition to be read before the League by the one who prepared it. See that such a reading is clearly and carefully done. Then question various members, individually, on the main points of the composition they heard read. Help them to fix *ideas* in their minds, correct false ones, and amplify those which seem to have im-

pressed themselves best. Thus your teaching will be live, interesting and effective.

Then, in addition, you can make the central lesson and others related to it, even more clear and fixed by using a blackboard, or an object, or pictures or a good story which illustrates the point. For effective teaching the two methods should go hand in hand. The one reinforces the other. In the use of the blackboard and other illustrative material, select your method in advance and do not use all kinds of illustration during the same lesson period. It only confuses and defeats your object. Use one form of illustration and concentrate upon it. Vary your methods from week to week. It will keep the meetings fresh and most interesting as well as make them richly informative.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY WORK.

Memorizing large sections of Scripture should be a weekly part of Junior work. To fill the mind and heart with the rich gems of God's Word will make the growing life rich and strong. This they need, although unmindful of its value now. The indwelling Word is to be a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their pathway. It is also to be a protection against the power of sin and temptation. With this idea in view, provision is made for the committing to memory and the reciting before the League, each week, of large sections of Scripture. That beautiful Scripture classic, the lament of David over the death of Saul and Jonathan (II Sam. 1:19-27 inclusive) has been chosen to begin with. Six months can be spent upon this very profitably. It will take this time to have a League of twenty-five members commit it thoroughly. This can be done both by individual and collective drill for a few minutes after the individual recitation. This part of the program is highly important and should not be omitted. By faithful work, great good will result in each growing life.

THE LEADER.

The leader of the League meeting should be an older boy or girl. The average fourteen or fifteen year old boy usually makes a splendid leader. He should be selected by the superintendent, a week in advance and told what he is to do. The smooth rendering of the program is really a matter for which he should be made to feel responsible.

The selection of the various members to take part on the program and the selection of the Scripture memory work together with the topics, should be done by the superintendent. The leader should select the Psalm for responsive reading. He should be encouraged to select the hymns. Of course the superintendent should guide him here,

so that suitable hymns are chosen. On the other hand, there are many hymns the boys especially like and when these are chosen they will be sung with great vigor. This is likewise true of the girls. Give the leader every encouragement and teach him to lead the meeting carefully and with distinct pronunciation. Do not let him hurry. He may be a bit nervous, but this he will soon conquer. Show him the manliness of it and in time, many will be the useful leaders for work in the Church and League.

LUTHER LEAGUE OF AMERICA

(Continued from page 32)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

—The District League elected the following officers at a recent meeting: President, Mr. F. A. Leonhardt, St. Mark's; vice-president, Miss E. Holtze, Zion's; second vice-president, Mrs. William Baum, St. John's; recording secretary, Miss O. Beall, Zion's; corresponding secretary, Mr. George R. Huttel, Atonement; treasurer, Mr. George H. Godron, St. Mark's.

OREGON—WASHINGTON

—W. S. T. Derr, Vancouver, Wash., president of the Oregon-Washington Luther League, and Miss Vivian Muller, Tacoma, Wash., president of the Puget Sound Central Luther League, attended a conference in Seattle October 17 to plan the work for 1915. It was decided to hold a P. S. convention in January.

—The Norwegian, Swedish and English Luther Leagues of Everett, Wash., have formed a federation of which Mr. Engerset is president. Meetings are held quarterly. The time of the next meeting is November 24.

—Holy Trinity Luther League, Seattle, is coming into its own. The attendance this fall is very satisfactory. The League is now recognized as the strongest spiritual organization within the Church.

—The Western Leaguers are not to be outdone by those of the East. Mr. Fox, one of the active Leaguers of The Dalles, Oregon, is County Clerk of Wasco County. President Derr is just rounding out his second term as County Clerk of Clark County, Washington, and has recently been nominated Justice of the Peace of the city of Vancouver, Wash.

—The Luther League of St. John's, Tacoma, has during the last year, repaired the parsonage and has placed a piano in the parlors of the church.

NEBRASKA

—The young people of Grace Church, Omaha, met during September to reorganize the Luther League after the summer vacation. The officers elected for the coming year are: President, Miss Evelyn T. Hanson; vice-president, Mr. Walter Wolff; secretary, Miss Mildred Carlson; treasurer, Mr. Louis Swanson; corresponding secretary, Miss Ruth Neef; pianist, Miss Lucile Peterson. The League is planning some good work for the year. The devotional meetings, with the study of the Topics, are well conducted and interesting. By invitation the young people are holding their regular monthly business meeting and social at the homes of the members. The meeting in October showed the eager interest of the Leaguers in the plans for the work for the year, and the spirit of good fellowship existing in the society.